

Huskers Illustrated

NOVEMBER 2, 1996

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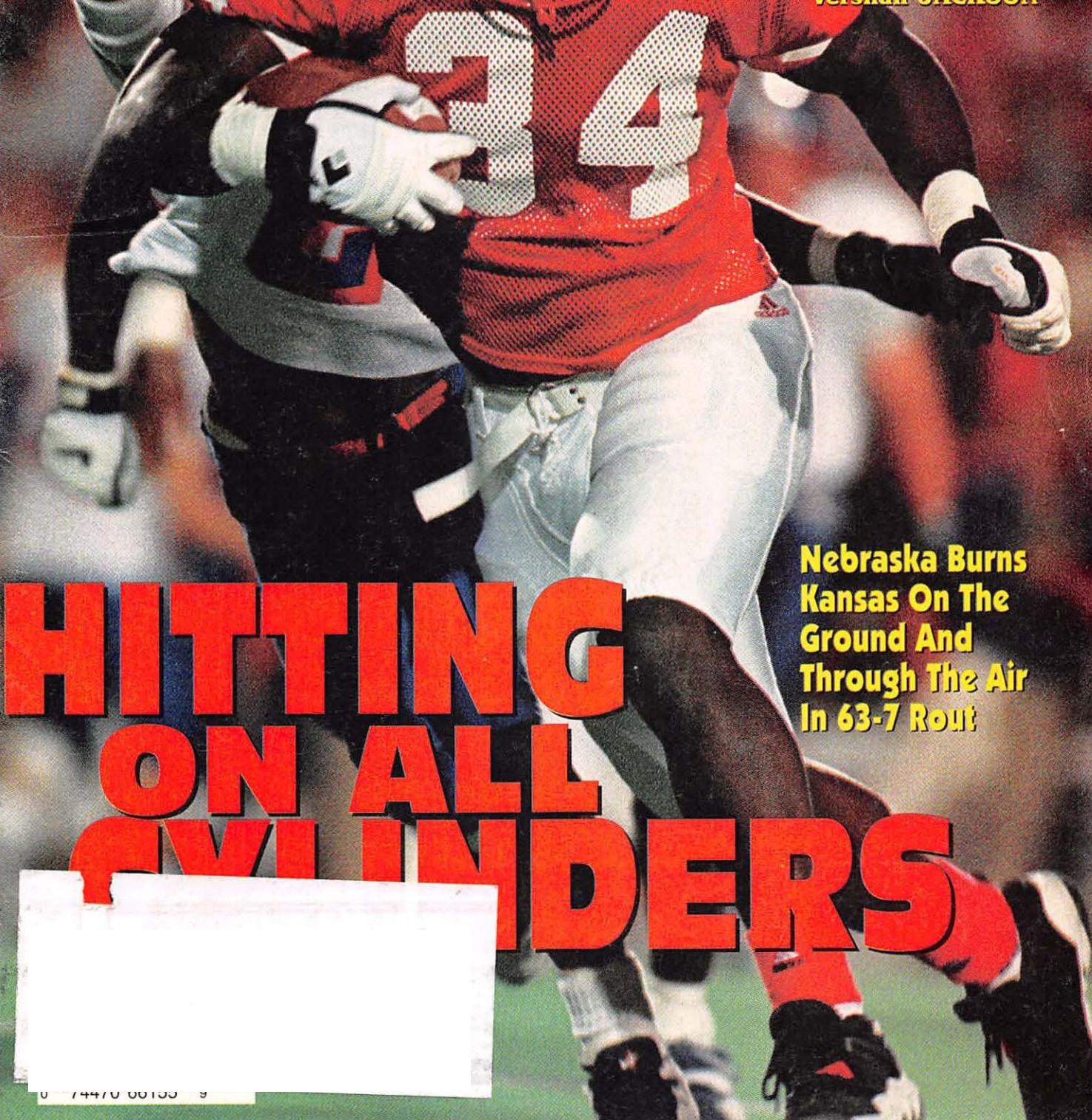
Volume 16, No. 14

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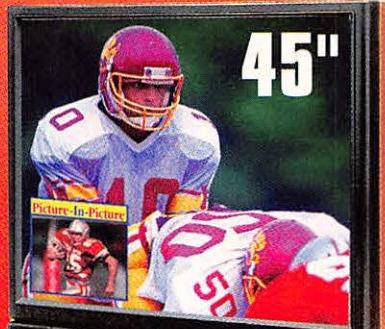


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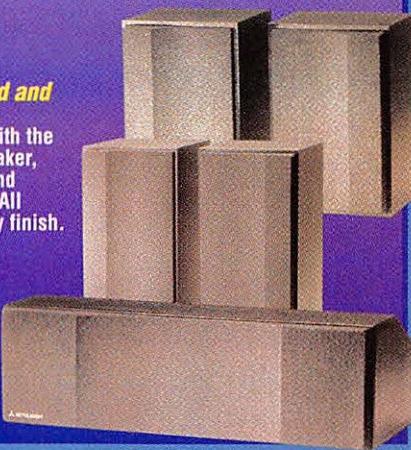


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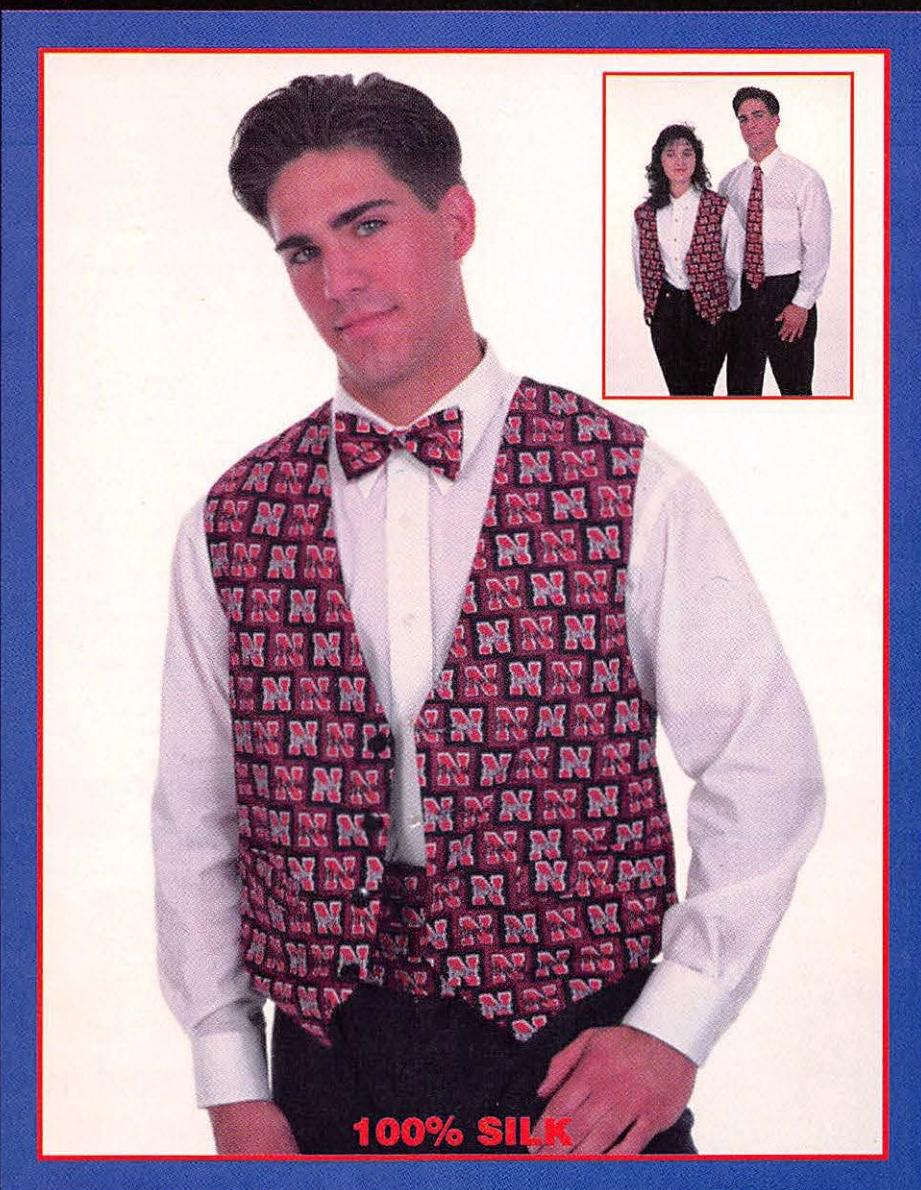
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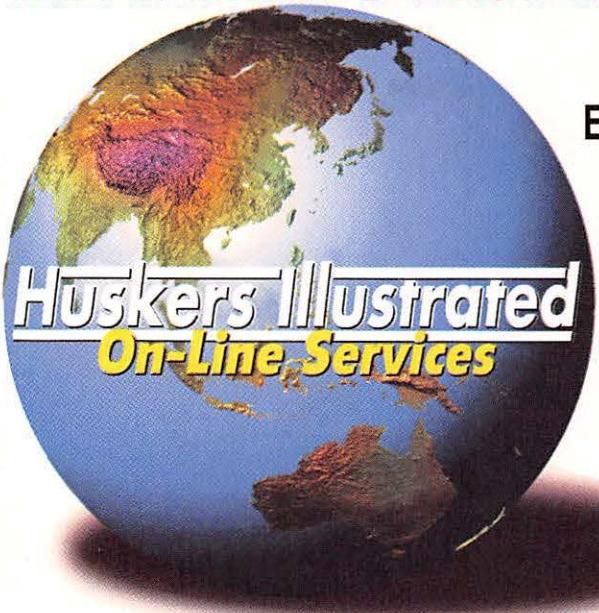
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PUBLISHER
Robert Bennett

EDITORIAL & OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR
Chris Greer

PRODUCTION
Jeff Cannon, Blain Fowler, Aaron Derr,
Steve Lansdale, Brian Bentley

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mike Babcock, Mark Derowitzch, Mike
Friend, James Hole,
Nebraska Sports Information Office

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jon Waller, Bob Berry, Chris Wildrick,
John Mumford, Michael Chow

SPORTS MARKETING
& ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jeff Tuder
For Advertising Information Call:
(402) 423-3405

SALES MANAGER
Jeff Finney

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
COORDINATOR
Todd McVeigh

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Ann Johnston

CIRCULATION
Ann Johnston, Pamela Loftis

ACCOUNTING
Carolyn Rhodes

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published weekly from September through November except open dates; bi-monthly June/July; monthly January through May, August. Single issue cost \$2.95; subscription rate for one year (17 issues) is \$49.90. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of \$16.00 per year. Foreign postage \$34.00.

Huskers Illustrated is published by College Sports Communications, Inc., 4099 McEwen, Suite 350, Dallas, Texas 75244-5039, (972) 742-2000 or (800) 397-3715. Periodicals paid at Dallas, Texas and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Huskers Illustrated, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501.

Address all editorial related correspondence to *Huskers Illustrated*, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

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For Subscription Inquiries call 1-800-397-3715 or mail to P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3222. Allow six to eight weeks for response. Give old and new addresses and enclose latest mailing address label when writing about your subscription.



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Customer Service

1-800-397-3715

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
(Central Time)

Email Addresses

Publisher: huskerspub@xcscx.com

Editor: huskersedit@xcscx.com

Circulation: huskerscirc@xcscx.com

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Since 1981, when Tom Rathman (26) was a scholarship recruit out of Grand Island, Nebraska has had nine recruiting classes without scholarship players identified as potential fullbacks.

By Mike Babcock

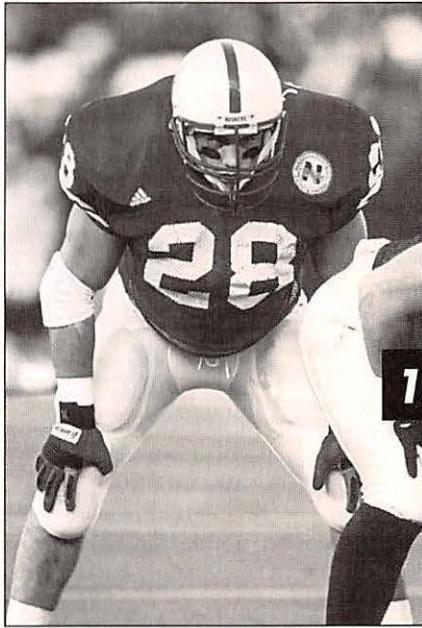
28 Calm Before The Storm

Idolizing Mother Teresa, Kate Crnich displays a different demeanor on the court.

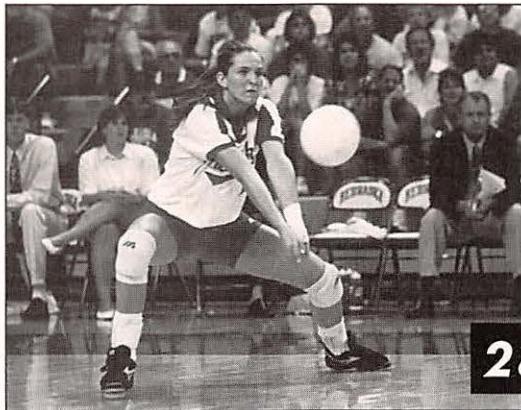
By Mike Friend

42 Best Of The Best: The Numbers Game (Jerseys 61-70)

Linemen, on both sides of the ball, have always been one of the main cornerstones in Nebraska's success. This week's installment highlights a few including John McCormick and Bob Brown.



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Will be mailed on
November 3, 1996

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LETTERS

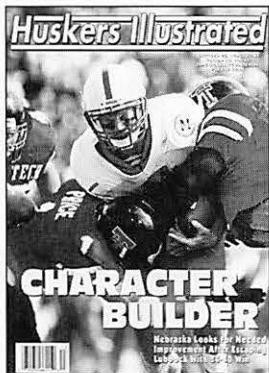
Not paying players is what makes college football so great. At least we know that the kids are playing because they love the game, not because of the pay-check they get. The tradition, pageantry, the heart. That's college football.

It also seems funny that even though revenues are on the rise (with huge television contracts and all), it costs students more and more to go to school each year. Let's take the additional revenues and make it easier for all people to go to college, not just those who are blessed with fleet feet, strong passing arms, and 300-pound frames.

People go to college to learn how to make a living, not to make the living itself.

Greg H. Jepsen
Jepsen8000@worldnet.att.net

Johnny Rodgers, I'm still a member of your audience. I started being one of those many years ago when



you were carrying a football as a Cornhusker. Now I am one of your *Huskers Illustrated* readers who was so delighted to find you in its pages. I didn't even know you had turned into a journalist.

I won't go as far as to say that you write with the same excitement for your readers that you carried the football.

R. Whitney Drayton
San Diego, Calif.

I don't care if Nebraska calls them rush ends or outside linebackers; they are just bad to the bone in my book. I love watching Jared Tomich and Grant Wistrom cave in the pocket and slam the quarterback to the turf. I've noticed there's been a lot of double-teaming this year which has cut down on the furious hits. Still, they are unmatched as far as ability and desire.

Paul Mattrick
Lincoln, Neb.

Sour grapes or not, but there's no way that Arizona State should be ranked ahead of Nebraska. Sure they beat the Huskers down there, but every dog has its day. Twice this year, the Sun Devils have had to get unbelievable gifts to win games. That's not the sign of a great team; just a lucky one. Luck may play a part in some of the rankings, but it shouldn't keep more deserving

teams like Nebraska out of a higher spot.

I'm not even a die-hard Husker fan — just someone who loves college football. And to see a team like Arizona State so high in the polls just reinforces my belief that Division I-A college football is all screwed up.

Karny Stephensom
steph@aol.com

Is it true that Erick Strickland is playing basketball in the NBA? A friend of mine said he was playing real well for the Detroit Pistons. I didn't see him get drafted, so what's the deal?

Paul Miller
Omaha, Neb.

Strickland is playing in the NBA, but with the Dallas Mavericks; not the Pistons. He wasn't drafted but got a free agent tryout and has stuck around. Early in the preseason when most of the starters including Jason Kidd and Jamal Mashburn were sidelined with injuries, Strickland saw extensive minutes and was one of the best shooters on the team. It is still unknown whether Strickland will make the Mavericks' roster (they are already over the NBA salary cap), but if he is cut, his preseason showing should get him looks from other clubs. —Editor

Please send your comments and questions to **Letters**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. Or fax them to us at (214) 851-1720. We reserve the right to edit the letters for clarity, content and length.

For those with electronic mail abilities, huskersedit@xcscx.com.

All Treved Up

Former Nebraska All-America linebacker Trev Alberts has combined with corporate sponsors to sponsor a Huskers car that will race on the NASCAR circuit. The financial benefits will go to the University of Nebraska, the NU athletic department, and the Trev Alberts Foundation.

The car will display the University of Nebraska trademarks and national championship logos, but space remains available for additional sponsors and supporters.

Alberts said that he wants the car, which was first displayed to the Cornhuskers' faithful at the team's season-opening victory over Michigan State, to be a Nebraska car, with Nebraska sponsors and supporters.

"This is Nebraska's car," Alberts said. "It is my way of giving back to the university and the state that has given so much to me."

The University of Nebraska will receive 96 percent of the profits from all licensed memorabilia associated with the car and the race team. Nebraska, believed to be

the first university to be represented in Winston Cup Racing, could reap considerable benefits, because

NASCAR is the leading licensing sport in the country. Of the money NU receives, one-third will go to the alumni scholarship fund, one-third to the general scholarship fund, and one-third to the athletic department.

The Trev Alberts Foundation, which will receive the remaining four percent of the profits, was created to support children in education, finances and personal experiences.

The race team is owned by Melling Racing, and the car, which will be driven by Lake Speed, will begin racing in Feb., 1997 at Daytona. Potential corporate sponsors can contact Alberts' marketing agents, Empire Management Group, at (800) 888-3764.

The first Nebraska winner of the Butkus Award (given annually to the nation's top linebacker), Alberts had a school-record 15 sacks in his senior season. His 29.5 career sacks are also a Husker record. ■



University of Nebraska Photo Services

ADRIAN'S ANALYSIS

Happy Trails To You

It will be hard to stomach the fact that the annual clash of the Big Reds, which usually had season-ending significance, will only happen every two years

t's Oklahoma week and when you want to see the meaning of football tradition coming down the tunnel, you need only look at the battles between the two Big Reds — the Scarlet and Cream against the Crimson and Cream. The first color in each case is defined as a "strong red" and a "deep red," respectively, by the American Heritage Dictionary. How appropriate.

For me, it began with the Nebraska-Oklahoma game in 1959, the only major college football game

By
ADRIAN FIALA

old, and hooked on sports. Yes, I was ready to go watch the Huskers.

Little did we realize that we were about to watch a piece of Nebraska football history. Oklahoma came to Lincoln having gone unbeaten in 74 consecutive conference games. The Huskers were heavy underdogs. As every second ticked off that big old round clock hanging on the fieldhouse wall, the stadium began to heave with the anticipation of the crowd. When the gun went off, signaling the end of the game, the scoreboard read:

not-so-small indication of what this huge football tradition signified. Classes have never been canceled for such a reason since.

After the game, the Husker seed was planted in my mind. I knew I wanted to be part of the tradition. Six years later, I would get my wish, when Bob Devaney offered me a scholarship.

Tradition is defined as the passing down of elements of a culture from generation to generation. From the 1960s until just last year, Nebraska-Oklahoma has been synonymous with three things: Thanksgiving, the Big Eight football championship and the national championship.

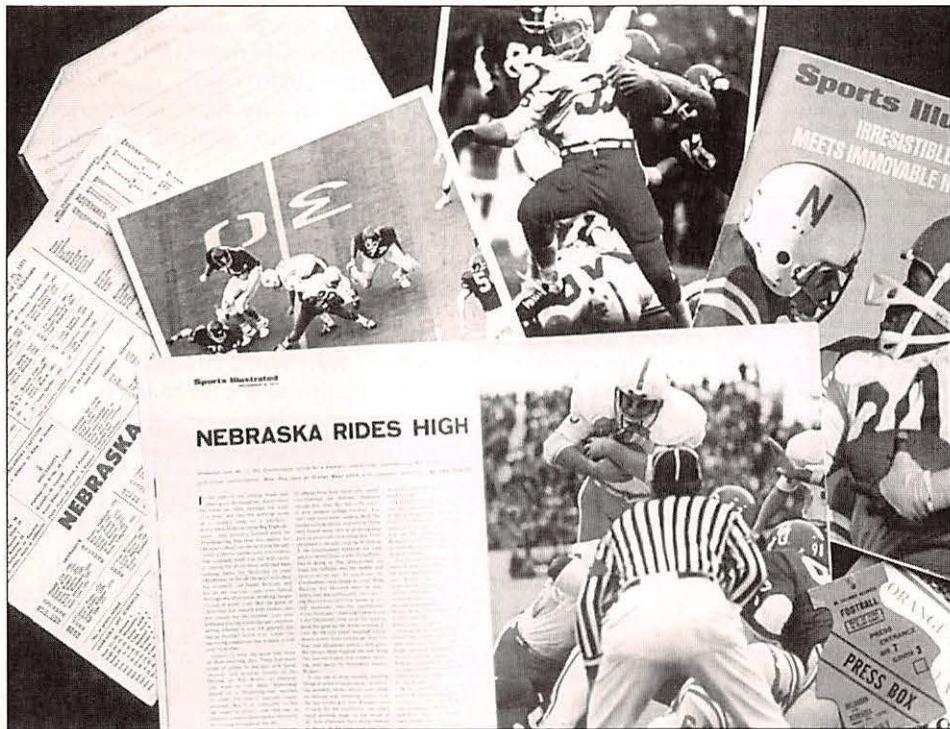
Every year, Nebraska fans planned their Thanksgiving holiday around "the game," which was played several times on Thanksgiving Day. Each year, the game was usually played for the Big Eight championship, and the result was often a major factor in the national championship race. From 1962 to 1995, "the game" had Big Eight and/or national title implications 26 times. It matched some of the greatest coaches ever, such as Devaney, Bud Wilkinson, Tom Osborne and Barry Switzer.

None, however, will be bigger or better than the 1971 "Game of the Century."

The No. 1-ranked Huskers played the No. 2 Sooners in Norman, Okla., on a classic, battleship-gray, late fall afternoon, with the whole nation watching and listening on televisions and radios stretched to their electronic limits.

As expected, the pre-game hype was . . . well, even huge doesn't properly describe it. Electron microscopes could not have picked apart the players and the coaches any more than the media did that week. Press credential requests were close to Avogadro's number, or so it seemed.

(Avogadro's number is 6.0225 x See **FIALA** page 33



From 1962 to 1995, the Nebraska/Oklahoma game had Big Eight and/or national title implications 26 times.

I saw before I stepped onto the Nebraska campus. My CYO football coach, Yano Bonofide, called me early on Saturday morning and asked if I wanted to head down to Lincoln to watch the Huskers and Sooners play. I was about 12 years

Nebraska 25, Oklahoma 21. The crowd burst onto the field and swallowed up the goal posts in one short gulp. I sat in the wonder of it all.

After the game, students and Husker fans celebrated into the night, and on Sunday, the celebration turned into a rally that ended at NU Chancellor Clifford Hardin's home in south Lincoln. Chancellor Hardin declared that classes on the next Monday would be canceled, a

Mr. Jennings' Opus

Orchestrating upsets like the 25-21 win over Oklahoma in 1959 is the reason Bill Jennings deserved respect and induction into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame

ill Jennings left the north fieldhouse and walked with his wife Mary and daughter Jan to the parking lot. As they crossed the street, a young man in a jalopy yelled: "What was the score?"

He slowed to hear the answer. "The score was 25-21," they yelled back.

"Who won?" the young man wanted to know.

He was still within earshot. "Nebraska," they replied.

The jalopy, which was speeding up, swerved, precariously, then continued on.

Earlier that afternoon in Memorial Stadium, Jennings had coached the Nebraska football team to a 25-21 upset of Oklahoma. The loss was the Sooners' first to a conference opponent since 1946, the year before

Bud Wilkinson became head coach in Norman and Jennings joined his staff.

Oklahoma had won 72 of its previous 74 conference games, with two ties. The Sooners had won 36 consecutive conference games, and they had won 16 in a row against Nebraska. The combined score of those 16 victories was 313-47, which helped to explain why the jalopy had swerved.

It was Homecoming weekend at Nebraska, and Halloween . . . Oct. 31, 1959.

The significance of that victory has been lost with the passing of time. It has been obscured by many things, including the four national championships Nebraska has won in the 37 years since then.

The era was different, and so was the game. But that doesn't diminish the accomplishment. And the man

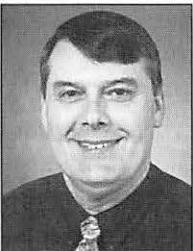
who coached it deserves to be remembered, just as surely as those who have followed him.

Jennings was among 11 inductees into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame this fall. But some questioned why a coach with a 15-34-1 record over five seasons should be so honored.

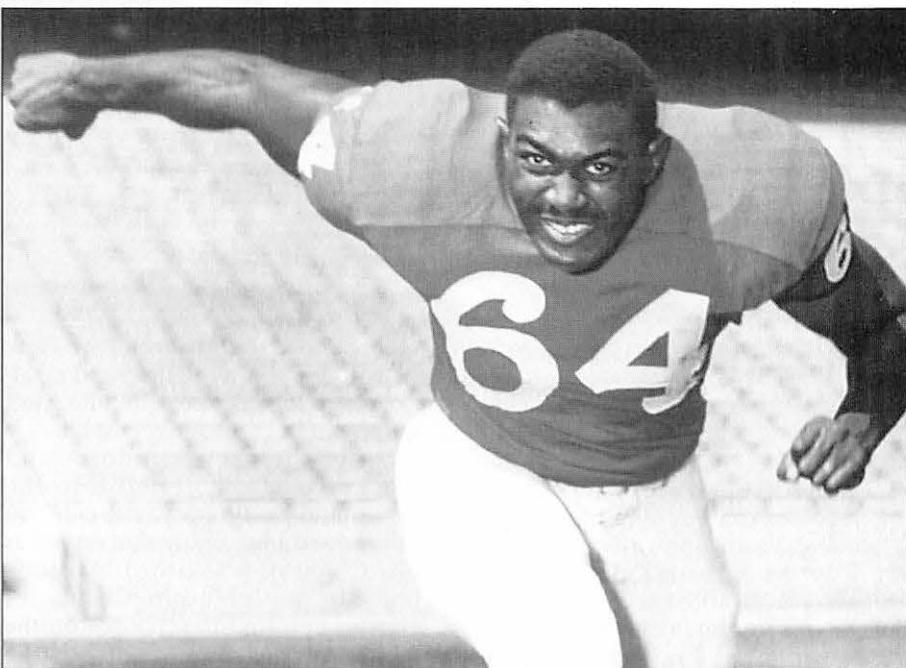
The answer is that a coach should not be judged solely on wins and losses. There must be a context, an understanding of time and place. And when that is acknowledged, Jennings belongs.

Jennings, who spent seven seasons as an Oklahoma assistant, came to Nebraska in 1956. He was hired to be the top assistant on the staff of 29-year-old Pete Elliott, another

Bill Jennings (left) recruited many of the players, including Bob Brown (below), who were responsible for Bob Devaney's immediate success.



By
**MIKE
BABCOCK**



Wilkinson assistant.

Elliott replaced Bill Glassford, who left Nebraska on less than amicable terms, and remained for one 4-6 season. A little over a week after the Board of Regents voted to raise his annual salary from \$12,000 to \$14,500, Elliott went in search of a coaching job elsewhere. He ended up at California.

Jennings was immediately promoted to the head coach's job. He was an excellent recruiter and he had rapport with the players, who seemed to relate much better to him than to the younger Elliott.

Jennings was an ex-Marine, who had earned the incongruous nickname "Twinkle Toes" during his playing career under coach Tom Stidham at Oklahoma. He was quiet and straightforward, an admirable quality but one that contributed to his brief tenure as the Cornhuskers' head coach.

When he took charge, Jennings seemed to change. As the losses mounted, his practices became more and more intense, lasting three hours and longer, with full contact throughout. He was a taskmaster, who often wore his players down during the week so that they were

ineffective on Saturday.

Yet he had a knack for orchestrating upsets. The most dramatic was the one against Oklahoma in 1959. But his 1958 team beat Penn State in the opener 14-7, then surprised 14th-ranked Pittsburgh 14-6 in the next-to-last game of the season. His 1960 team opened with a 14-13 victory against fourth-ranked Texas at Austin. The problem was, after being ranked 12th nationally by the Associated Press the next week, the Cornhuskers lost six of their remaining nine games, including a stretch of four in a row.

They finished with a 17-14 victory against Oklahoma at Norman, however. Police officers were stationed on the Nebraska sideline during the game because of threats to Jennings.

Sooner fans had blamed him for leaking information about a recruiting slush fund that led to NCAA probation for the Oklahoma football program. Several years later, Jennings was exonerated.

Jennings contributed to his own demise, telling a booster group in Omaha in 1961: "I don't think this state can ever be great in anything; there are so few people in the state."

In December of 1961, Nebraska Chancellor Clifford Hardin told Jennings his contract would not be renewed. Before leaving, Jennings reiterated what he had told the Omaha group.

"We can't feed the ego of the state of Nebraska with the football team," he said.

Jennings couldn't see what was about to happen when Bob Devaney arrived from Wyoming to replace him. "With the bunch of kids you have left here, if you'd stay another year, you'd win," Devaney told him during a brief meeting in the football offices on the second floor of the NU Coliseum.

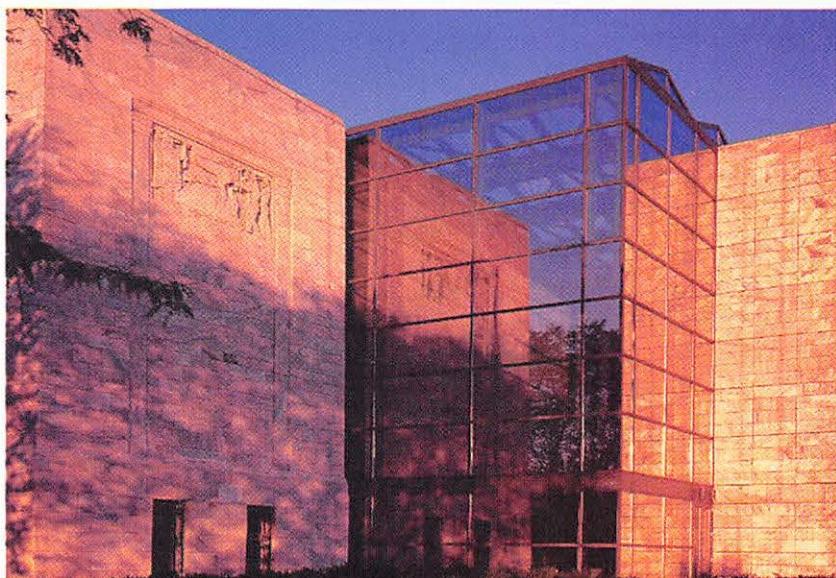
Jennings recruited many of the players who were responsible for Devaney's immediate success, getting the likes of Bob Brown from Cleveland and Bill Thornton from Toledo, Ohio, as well as several players from Minnesota, including Dennis Claridge, Larry Kramer, Lloyd Voss and Dennis Stuewe.

For those contributions alone, Jennings belongs in the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame. But the week before the Oklahoma game, he should be remembered for what happened in 1959. The goal posts came down for the first time in school history, even though they were steel set in concrete. ■

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A Classic Rivalry

Nebraska and Oklahoma developed a mutual respect for each other as the match-up heated up through the early '70s

When I think of rivalries in the Big Eight — excuse me, the Big 12 — I immediately think of the big games on Thanksgiving Day (or that weekend) between Oklahoma and Nebraska.

And they were ALL big games.

The stage in the early 1970s was always set by great coaching from both teams.

Oklahoma was coached by Chuck Fairbanks, who believed in running the Wishbone offense, which Nebraska could only seem to contain on the Sunday after the Oklahoma game.

Fairbanks' offensive coordinator, Barry Switzer, who we now know as the head coach of the defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys, was and still is one of the best coaching minds in football. Nebraska, of course, was led by the "winningest" coach in the nation, the great Bob Devaney, and his offensive coordinator, Tom Osborne.

Oklahoma was our greatest adversary, but the Sooners were never considered our enemies.

We didn't run out on the field with any type of hatred or anger in our hearts. Both teams just wanted to win, bad. We had attitudes and would do anything to win — anything honorable, that is.

There was mutual respect between the teams. Nebraska and Oklahoma were two of the best college football teams on the planet in the early 1970s. And we were proud of it.

During my junior season, I became very good friends with the hardest running, fanciest dressing and down-right funniest guy — Greg Pruitt, the running back at Oklahoma.

We used to travel back and forth, visiting each other and just having a good time. In 1971 and 1972, Greg

By
**JOHNNY
RODGERS**



earned consensus All-America honors at Oklahoma. I remember back in 1971, in a game against Kansas State and its much-publicized running back Mack Herron, Greg rushed for 294 yards and had 374 all-purpose yards.

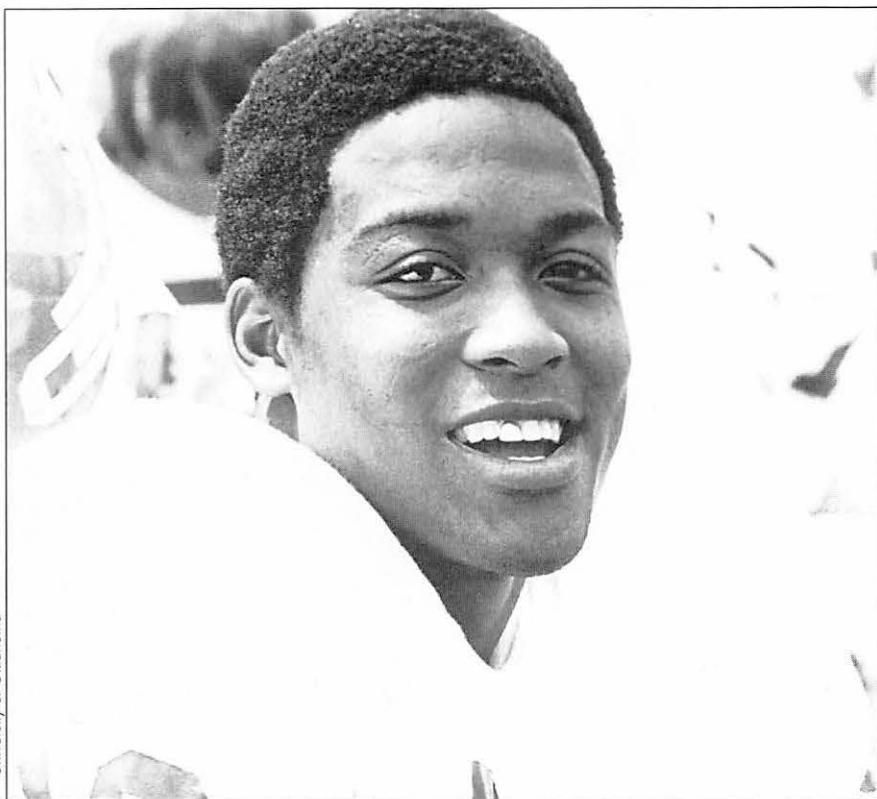
Everybody was talking about what Mack was going to do, but, excuse me, Greg ran Mack to death that day. Greg had me thinking, "I never did that. How could he do that? Could I do that?"

In 1971, Greg's 9.41 yards per carry average was an NCAA

made the same All-American teams. The experiences associated with being selected for those teams were the beginning of some great times together.

Greg and I did Hawaii, New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and the Bahamas. One time in Miami, Greg and I caught an air bus over to Nassau in the Bahamas, just to try the gaming tables.

We were always competitive, trying to out-do each other. We couldn't wait to get to the blackjack tables in Nassau. In just two hours, however, we were broke, hungry and embarrassed, losing over \$600



The Nebraska/Oklahoma rivalry offered Rodgers the chance to meet and befriend talented Sooner running back Greg Pruitt.

record. He ran for 1,665 yards as a junior. That season, he was third in the Heisman Trophy race, behind Ed Marinaro and the winner, Pat Sullivan, a quarterback from Auburn. In my opinion, Greg should have won the Heisman that year.

After the 1971 season, Greg and I

and our plane tickets for the return to Miami.

To make a long story short, the manager of the casino knew who we were, showed us some mercy — we were still poor students — and gave us our money back. His one stipula-

See THE JET page 36

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WHY DOESN'T NEBRASKA RECRUIT MANY FULLBACKS?

Nebraska finds most of its best fullbacks, including Brian Schuster, through the highly successful walk-on program.



Brian Schuster figured Nebraska would offer him a football scholarship following a successful career at Fullerton, Neb. The Cornhuskers didn't. He had to walk on.

When he arrived at Nebraska as a 193-pound fullback, in the fall of 1992, his goals included making the travel roster for the Cornhuskers' trip to Pasadena, Calif., to play UCLA the next season.

That goal proved to be "unrealistic," Schuster said recently.

He spent his first two seasons at Nebraska laboring on the scout team. "Well into my second year here, I had never run any of our plays," he said.

He got in for two snaps near the end of a 76-14 victory against North Texas in the 1993 opener. Those were his only snaps of the season. The Pasadena trip was pretty much a pipe dream.

"We ran an '11 dive' and a '44 iso' (against North Texas)," Schuster said. "They were the first two plays we had put in at the start of fall practice. I even screwed up one of those, I think."

He carried on one — presumably not the one on which he screwed up — for a 7-yard gain.

That play represents his career at Nebraska. Despite the disappointments and unfulfilled expectations, some of which are unique to walk-ons, Schuster has always forged ahead. There



were times when he wondered what it would be like to go home from class and relax before starting to study.

He made the Big Eight academic honor roll in 1994 and 1995, and last season he was a second-team GTE/CoSIDA Academic All-American. His cumulative grade-point average is 3.473.

He and his wife Chelsea have a 1-year-old daughter, Samantha. They also have considerable debt as a result of student loans. "If I had gone to Kearney, I wouldn't have that," Schuster said. The University of Nebraska-Kearney was among several small schools that offered him scholarships.

He was determined to play football at Nebraska. Besides, it wasn't until late December of his senior year in high school that he realized the Cornhuskers weren't going to offer him a scholarship. By then, many of the smaller schools he had initially rejected had turned their attention elsewhere.

Nebraska recruits walk-ons as well as scholarship players, of course.

It was, from the first day of practice with the varsity in 1992,

"(Fullback) takes a guy with a good work ethic, a team-oriented guy. But why walk-ons have been so successful there (Nebraska), I really don't know."

**— FRANK SOLICH
NU running backs coach**



Bob Berry

Since 1981, when Tom Rathman (26) was a scholarship recruit out of Grand Island, Nebraska has had nine recruiting classes without scholarship players identified as potential fullbacks.

that Schuster was among a half-dozen fullbacks looking to establish themselves on the depth chart behind the top four: seniors Lance Lewis and Andre McDuffy, who also played I-back; junior Dave Fiala and sophomore Cory Schlesinger. Lewis was No. 1. McDuffy shared the No. 2 position with Schlesinger. And Fiala was fourth.

Among those with Schuster at the bottom of the depth chart were sophomores Rick Blatny and Kyle Emsick; redshirted freshmen Chris Norris and Chad Stanley; and another true freshman Mike Smith. Lewis, McDuffy and Schlesinger were scholarship recruits. The others all were walk-ons.

Nebraska's 1992 scholarship recruiting class hadn't any players designated as fullbacks. That was one of the reasons Schuster had thought he might get a scholarship. He paid close attention to the list of early commitments. "I was watching, and

See **FULLBACK** page 40

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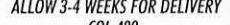
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SCOUTING



November 2, 1996 • 11 a.m. (CST) • ABC
Memorial Stadium • Norman, Okla.

By Mark Derowitsch

Gone are the past glory days of Oklahoma football, when Sooner fans would be upset with anything less than a national championship. Gone are the days of Gary Gibbs, when Oklahoma would finish with a winning record and go to a bowl game nearly every year the Sooners were eligible.

Gone are the days (however few) of Howard Schnellenberger, who after he proudly boasted he would return the Sooners to glory era, was sacked after a 5-5-1 season.

Wait, it gets worse. John Blake, who as coach of Oklahoma lost his first four games this fall and heard the talk that his team would likely end the year 0-11. But the Sooners can't lose them all after conference wins against Texas and Baylor.

But after being given the underdog label at the beginning of the year, the Sooners were reluctant to give up.

"We need to go out and work hard and believe in each other and just keep fighting back," Blake said. "We are expected to be the underdogs every game we play. We were expected to go 0-11, so why not be underdogs to everybody we play."

Blake will surely have his team ready to play when Oklahoma will take on two-time defending national

champion Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Norman, Okla.

Kickoff is scheduled for 11 a.m., and the game will be televised regionally by ABC.

Even though the game between the Sooners and the Huskers isn't what it used to be, rivalries never die. The Sooners game with Nebraska used to be played at the end of the season, and it usually decided the Big Eight champion. But with the Big 12, Oklahoma has been replaced by Colorado as Nebraska's end-of-the-year rival.

Part of the reason why the Sooners won just two of their first seven was turnovers. Oklahoma gave up the ball 16 times in that span, and only forced eight from opponents.

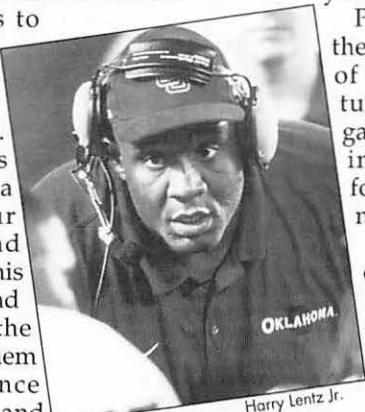
If Oklahoma is to seriously challenge for the South Division title of the Big 12 Conference, it has to keep the mistakes to a minimum.

"If we can have no mistakes, there is outstanding potential," Blake said.

One player Blake has been evaluating all season is quarterback Justin Fuente, a redshirt freshman from Tulsa, Okla.

Fuente beat out Eric Moore, last year's starter, for the job early in the season. Fuente has completed 45.3 percent of his passes this year.

But along with Fuente's eight touchdown passes, he has also thrown six interceptions.



Harry Lentz Jr.

Oklahoma head coach John Blake has quieted critics with wins over Texas and Baylor.

PRESS PICKS

• Mike Babcock, Huskers Illustrated

Nebraska-Oklahoma on Nov. 2? How can this be? Even though Nebraska has won five in a row and seven of the last eight against Oklahoma (which looked at one point as if it wouldn't win a game this season), anyone with a sense of history would find it difficult, if not impossible, to predict a blowout. Oklahoma is certain to give a great effort, and the Cornhuskers have shown an unsettling inconsistency that could keep the game close . . . at least for a while.

**Nebraska 27,
Oklahoma 13.**

• Todd Henrichs, Grand Island (Neb.) Independent

It wasn't long ago that I predicted Oklahoma would finish 0-8 in the Big 12. The Sooners have since pulled a few surprises. But don't expect Nebraska to be surprised.

**Nebraska 33,
Oklahoma 13.**

• Kyle Svec, Hastings Tribune

This rivalry obviously isn't what it used to be in many minds. But the Sooners can always be considered a threat. After all, they have a fading shot at winning the Big 12 South Division and a possible rematch with the Huskers in the Big 12 championship game.

**Nebraska 47,
Oklahoma 8.**

• Scott Franzke, Prime Radio Sports

What once was one of college football's better rivalries has turned more than a little one-sided as of late. But, under first-year head coach John Blake, the Sooners already injected a little more life back into Texas-OU. Could it happen again? No.

**Nebraska 47,
Oklahoma 10.**

• David Lanier, Norman Transcript

Huskers run left, right and up the middle and walk away with an easy win.

**Nebraska 41,
Oklahoma 12.**

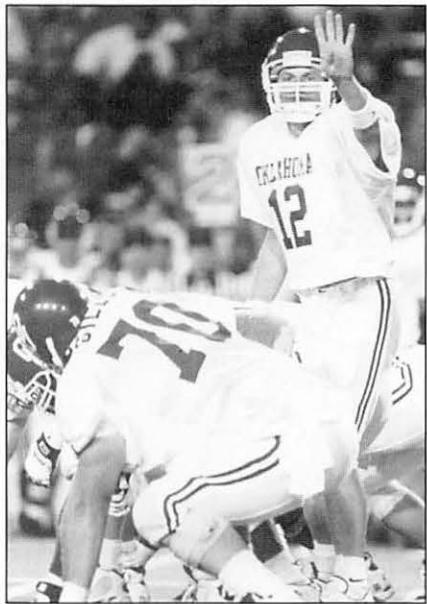
If the Sooners want to compete with teams like Nebraska, they'll have to come away mistake-free, according to Blake.

"We have had them all year long," Blake said. "We are going to have to limit our mistakes if we want to win any more games. We are playing tougher opponents every week."

Even with the mistakes, Blake likes what he sees in his new quarterback. Fuente is averaging 193 yards passing per contest.

"I told Justin if he had hit some of his receivers that were open he might be in the Heisman candidate race," Blake said.

Tight end Stephen Alexander has benefited most from Fuente's ability



Harry Lenz Jr.

Justin Fuente won the battle for the OU quarterback job.

to throw the ball. Alexander, a junior, is tied for the team lead in receptions with 21 for 426 yards and two touchdowns. His longest catch of the year was a 77-yard bomb from Fuente.

Senior split end Michael McDaniel has also been a big factor as he picked up six more catches for 125 yards and two touchdowns in last week's 42-35 loss to Kansas State. On the season McDaniel has 21 catches for 433 yards.

The Sooner running game has been placed in the hands of redshirt freshman DeMont Parker.

Parker is still splitting time with senior James Allen, who has picked up 567 yards on 118 carries this season. Parker, the team's leading rusher has 763 yards and four touchdowns through seven games.

Oklahoma's offensive line will return next season except for right guard Chris Campbell, the lone senior in the starting lineup.

Campbell is joined in the lineup by juniors Jay Smith at right tackle, Bruce McClure at center, left guard Derrick Nelson and Barry Giles at left tackle.

Defensively, Oklahoma hasn't allowed teams to run effectively. Opponents are averaging just 142 yards on the ground (3.4 yards per attempt).

Senior middle linebacker Tyrell Peters is one of the reasons why teams are finding the going tough against OU. Peters leads the team in tackles (with 74), is second in tackles for loss (with 5.5) and is tied for the lead with fumbles recovered (with two).



The OU ground game has returned to form, with James Allen (above) and DeMont Parker performing solidly.

Tackle Kelly Gregg, a sophomore, has 52 tackles and right end Travian Smith has 53 and three sacks. Left end Rod Manuel has a team-best five sacks to go along with 55 tackles while tackle Barron Tanner has nine tackles for loss.

The secondary has been the weakest point defensively. Teams have thrown for 1,650 yards on the Sooners through seven games, and the team has given up 19 touchdown passes through the air.

Oklahoma starts three sophomores in the secondary: cornerback Cedric Stephens, strong safety Terry White and free safety Gana Joseph. ■

NEBRASKA VS. OKLAHOMA TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Sr
	6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210	So
LT	77	Adam Treu	6-6	300	Sr
	73	Fred Pollack	6-4	305	Jr
LG	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Sr
	63	James Sherman	6-2	300	Fr
C	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	Jr
	59	Josh Heskew	6-3	280	Jr
RG	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	290	Jr
	62	Matt Hoskinson	6-1	280	Jr
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	295	Sr
TE	90	Tim Carpenter	6-3	250	Jr
or	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	250	So
QB	7	Scott Frost	6-3	215	Jr
	11	Matt Turman	5-11	185	Sr
FB	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Sr
	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	230	So
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	So
	21	Damon Benning	5-11	210	Sr
WB	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	205	Sr
	14	Lance Brown	5-11	190	So
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	200	So

SOONER DEFENSE

LE	85	Rod Manuel	6-5	272	Sr
	87	Cornelius Burton	6-5	259	Fr
LT	97	Kelly Gregg	6-0	281	So
	96	Shaq Brown	6-5	284	Jr
RT	92	Barron Tanner	6-3	295	Sr
	98	Steve Williams	6-4	274	Fr
RE	93	Martin Chase	6-2	282	Jr
	36	Travian Smith	6-4	225	Jr
OLB	84	Dale Allen	6-2	208	So
	49	Terrance Malone	6-2	232	So
MLB	45	Tyrell Peters	6-0	232	Sr
	43	Corey Ivy	6-1	231	Jr
OLB	51	Broderick Simpson	6-1	224	Sr
	40	Chris Justice	6-0	218	Fr
LC	7	Cedric Stephens	5-9	177	So
	41	Mike Woods	5-11	170	Fr
SS	13	Terry White	5-10	191	So
	17	Rod Henderson	6-2	197	Sr
FS	29	Gana Joseph	6-0	201	So
	5	Stephen Riddley	6-1	209	Jr
RC	9	Anthony Fogle	5-11	193	Sr
	21	Ramon Burroughs	5-11	157	Jr
P	82	Brian Lewis	6-2	225	So

SOONER OFFENSE

SE	6	Michael McDaniel	6-0	213	Sr
	24	Chris Blocker	6-1	209	So
LT	70	Barry Giles	6-5	291	Jr
	64	Jon Mulac	6-4	276	Jr
LG	67	Derrick Nelson	6-2	296	Jr
	62	Ricky Clark	6-2	284	Fr
C	73	Bruce McClure	6-5	269	Jr
	77	Tim Macias	6-2	259	So
RG	66	Chris Campbell	6-3	285	Fr
	54	Greg Moyer	6-2	263	So
RT	71	Jay Smith	6-3	280	So
	75	Sammy Williams	6-5	305	Jr
TE	80	Stephen Alexander	6-4	233	Jr
	86	Jason Freeman	6-3	232	So
QB	12	Justin Fuente	6-2	225	Fr
	1	Eric Moore	6-0	176	So
FB	32	Dwayne Chandler	5-11	230	Sr
	30	Jermaine Fazandé	6-0	252	So
HB	25	James Allen	5-10	209	Sr
	33	DeMont Parker	5-10	181	Fr
FL	10	Gerald Williams	6-3	188	So
	19	Jarrai Jackson	5-8	178	Fr
PK	15	Jeremy Alexander	5-10	184	Jr

HUSKER DEFENSE

LRE	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	260	Sr
	57	Chad Kelsay	6-3	230	So
DT	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	300	Sr
	99	Jason Wiltz	6-3	295	So
DT	55	Jason Peter	6-4	285	Jr
	74	Scott Saltsman	6-2	270	Sr
RRE	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	250	Jr
	84	Mike Rucker	6-6	250	So
SLB	28	Jamel Williams	6-2	205	Sr
	46	Brian Shaw	6-0	215	Fr
MLB	44	Jon Hesse	6-4	250	Sr
	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	225	So
WLB	43	Terrell Farley	6-1	205	Sr
	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	225	Sr
LC	20	Michael Booker	6-2	205	Sr
	12	Mike Fullman	5-7	170	Sr
FS	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	185	Sr
	3	Eric Warfield	6-1	195	Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Sr
	4	Octavius McFarlin	5-11	195	Jr
RC	22	Ralph Brown	5-11	180	Fr
	26	Jerome Peterson	5-7	185	Fr
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	185	Jr

Depth charts were compiled Oct. 27, 1996 and may change before game time. # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

Frost Has Career Day At KU's Expense

In passing, just let me say, uh . . . Scott Frost can pass fairly well.

Of course, maybe you'd rather hear that from someone much more qualified to make such an assessment, someone like Kansas coach Glen Mason, maybe?

"They threw the ball better than I thought they would," Mason said after Nebraska made short work of his ailing Jayhawks, shooting them down 63-7 at Memorial Stadium last Saturday night. "I thought Frost was real hot, but I don't know why I think that. Bill Walsh recruited him to Stanford as a passer and he's (Walsh) in the Hall of Fame, and I'm riding the bus home, eating a bologna sandwich."

By MIKE BABCOCK

GAME RECAP

a half quarters. The 254 yards were just short of making Nebraska's Top 10.

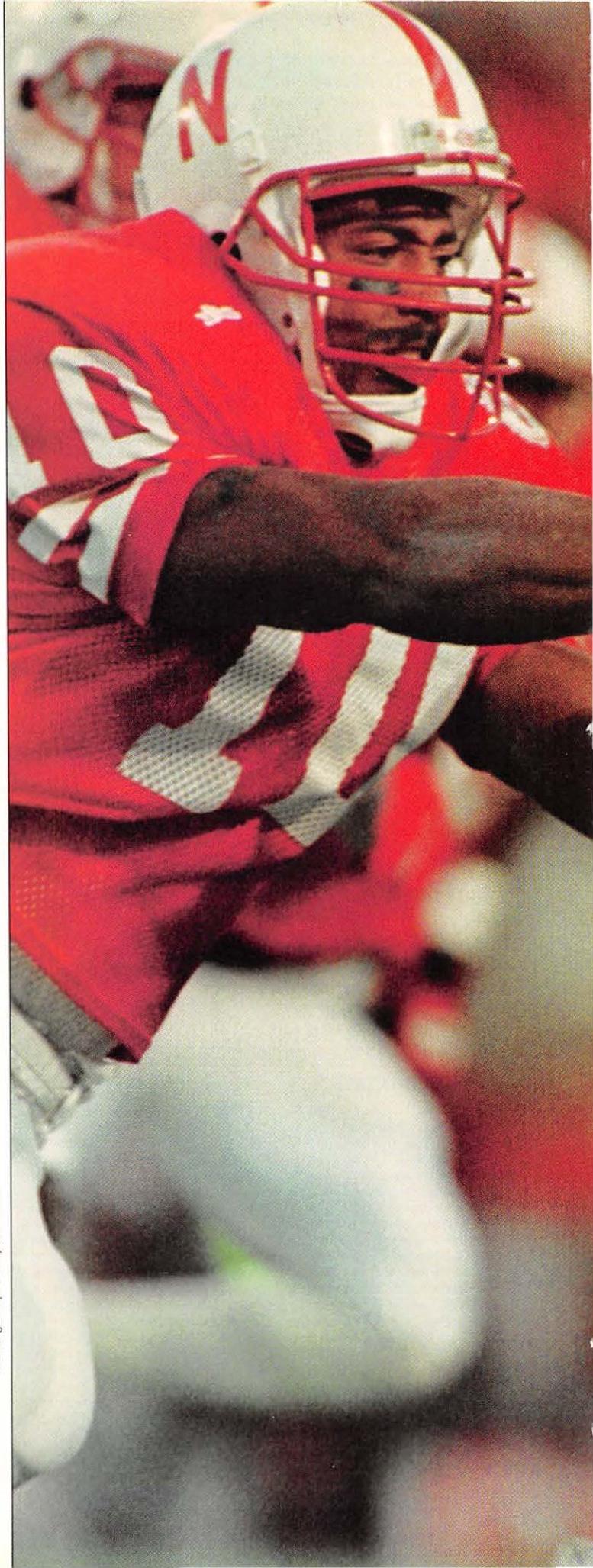
In fact, had Frost played just a little longer, he might well have broken the school single-game record of 297 yards passing, set by Dave Humm (25-of-36) against Wisconsin in 1973.

"Somebody came over on the sideline and asked me what it was," Frost said of the record. "If Coach (Tom) Osborne had given me one more chance to throw a long one . . . I don't know."

Granted, Kansas went into the game ranked 79th in the nation in pass efficiency defense and had allowed an average of 244.7 yards passing. But Frost's passing numbers in six games weren't particularly impressive: 44-of-93 for 595 yards and four touchdowns, with two interceptions.

The previous week against Texas Tech, in case you've forgotten, he completed only 4-of-12 passes for 55 yards, with one **Mike Minter and the Black Shirts held Kansas to 209 yards of total offense.**

Kansas game photos by Jon Waller





Eric Warfield's (3) strip of Eric Vann led to a recovery by Jared Tomich (93) and a Brendan Holbein score one play later to put NU up 21-0 early in the second quarter.

The Kansas defensive strategy was favorable, however. And Nebraska took advantage of it. The Jayhawks loaded up at the line of scrimmage in an attempt to stop the run. In retrospect, "we're probably stacking too many people up against the run," said Mason. "There's a tradeoff on that."

The tradeoff is, they're vulnerable to the pass. "I think the perception out there is, we can't throw it, or catch it," Osborne said. "But I've been seeing things in practice that lead me to believe we can."

Saturday night, the Cornhuskers did, and they did it as well as they have in some time.

Frost's first pass, on third-and-5 during Nebraska's first series, was incomplete. His second, play action on a first down, was complete to tight end Vershan Jackson for a 41-yard gain. "That was a big one, with the wind," said Frost, who hit an open Jackson, "feathered it out," in stride.

After five consecutive running plays took the ball from the Kansas 25-yard line to the 8-yard line, Frost passed to Sheldon Jackson, another tight end, for the first of his three touchdowns.

The other two were inside screens to split end Brendan Holbein, who finished with three catches for 69 yards. "It was real gratifying to see the passing game click," the senior from Cozad said.

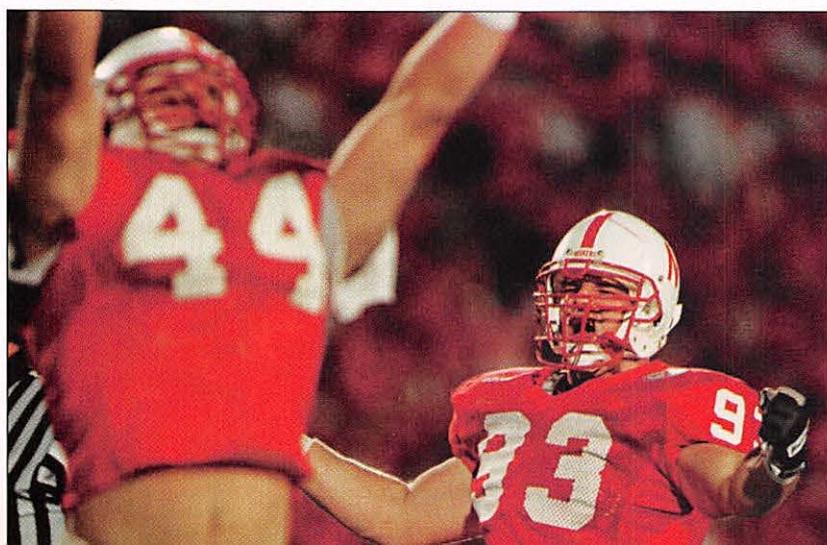
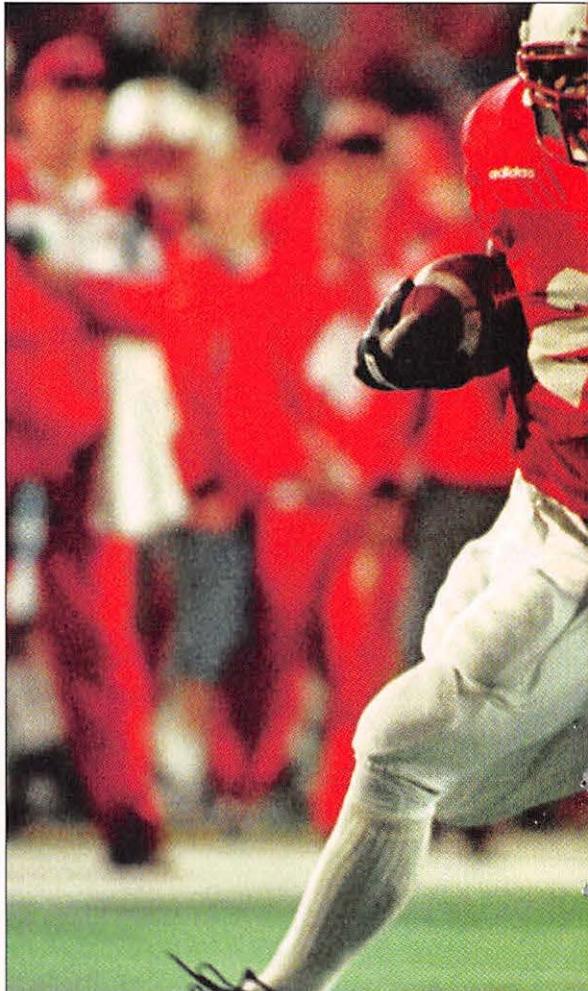
"I don't think we worked on it (passing) more. We just concentrated better."

Tomich and Jon Hesse (44) were pumped by the play of the Black Shirts against Kansas.



Catches by split ends Kenny Cheatham and Jeff Lake were evidence of that. Cheatham leaped high to grab a first-down pass that produced a 34-yard gain. And Lake had to adjust and come back to make a reception good for 31 yards, again on a first down. Both were key plays in scoring drives.

"I was really pleased with our receivers," said Osborne. "We had some guys dropping the ball (in previous games), and we finally said we're going to have to put the big-play guys out there, and if they drop the ball, they drop the ball. We had to get





more speed on the field, guys like Cheatham."

The completions to Cheatham and Lake came during a stretch in which Frost completed six consecutive passes. He completed five more before the first half ended, all on Nebraska's final series, which began at its own 38-yard line with 1:15 remaining and culminated with a 15-yard touchdown pass to Holbein. The scoring drive included eight plays, all passes. Two were spiked to stop the clock.

"Those are hard to complete," Frost said. Take them away and he was 12-of-14.

Frost's passing was the most interesting aspect of a game Nebraska was

Nebraska's big plays through the air pulled KU out of the box and opened space for Damon Benning.

expected to win going away, if for no other reason than it didn't fit the weather conditions or the pattern he had established. But the play of the Cornhusker defense was no less impressive — even though that is taken for granted by now.

Kansas was without tailback June Henley, whom Mason suspended following his arrest on suspicion of drunk driving earlier in the week. Henley had been seventh in the nation in rushing.

It's unlikely Henley could have cracked Nebraska's defense. "Our running game really hasn't been going very good, anyway," said Mason. "And no one's running game has been going very good against Nebraska. We knew those yards would be hard-fought. If the game would play out in normal circumstances, you're probably not going to run the ball and beat Nebraska without having the ability to mix it up and throw it. We knew we would have to mix it up. And we didn't mix it up well enough, I guess."

The Cornhuskers held Kansas to 21 yards rushing, and 209 yards of total offense. At the end of three quarters, the Kansas rushing total

was a minus-5 yards. "Just like we stress, shut down the running game and make them one-dimensional," said rush end Grant Wistrom, who had seven tackles, one of which was a sack.

Middle linebacker Jon Hesse, chosen as the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts against Texas Tech, made six tackles, including five unassisted. And defensive tackle Jason Peter had four tackles and a quarterback sack, despite wearing a cast on his broken right hand.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride began substituting early in the second half, after the Cornhuskers tied a school record by scoring 35 points in the second quarter. "The downside is, we don't get to play as much (in blowouts)," said Hesse. "But it also means we put it on somebody."

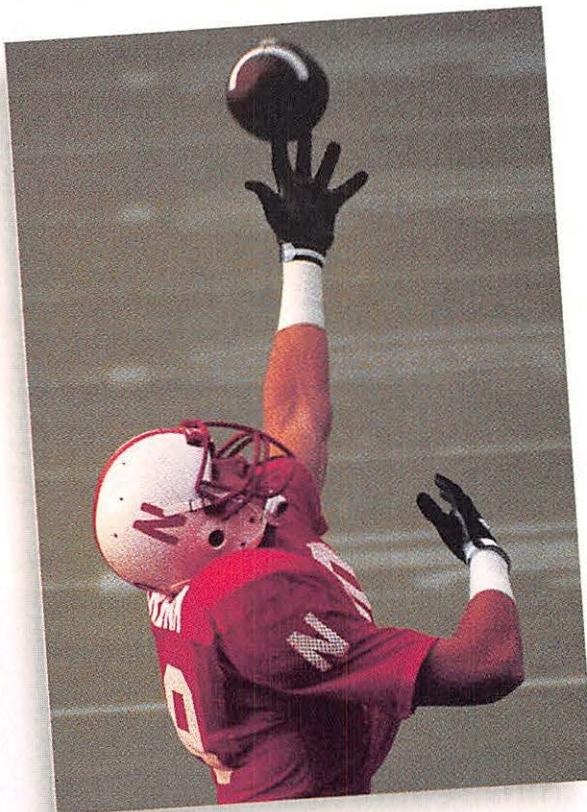
Hesse set the tone by tackling Eric Galbreath for a 7-yard loss on the first play from scrimmage. One play later, rush end Jared Tomich sacked quarterback Matt Johner, also for a 7-yard loss.

Tomich suffered a thigh bruise,

See KU REVIEW page 30



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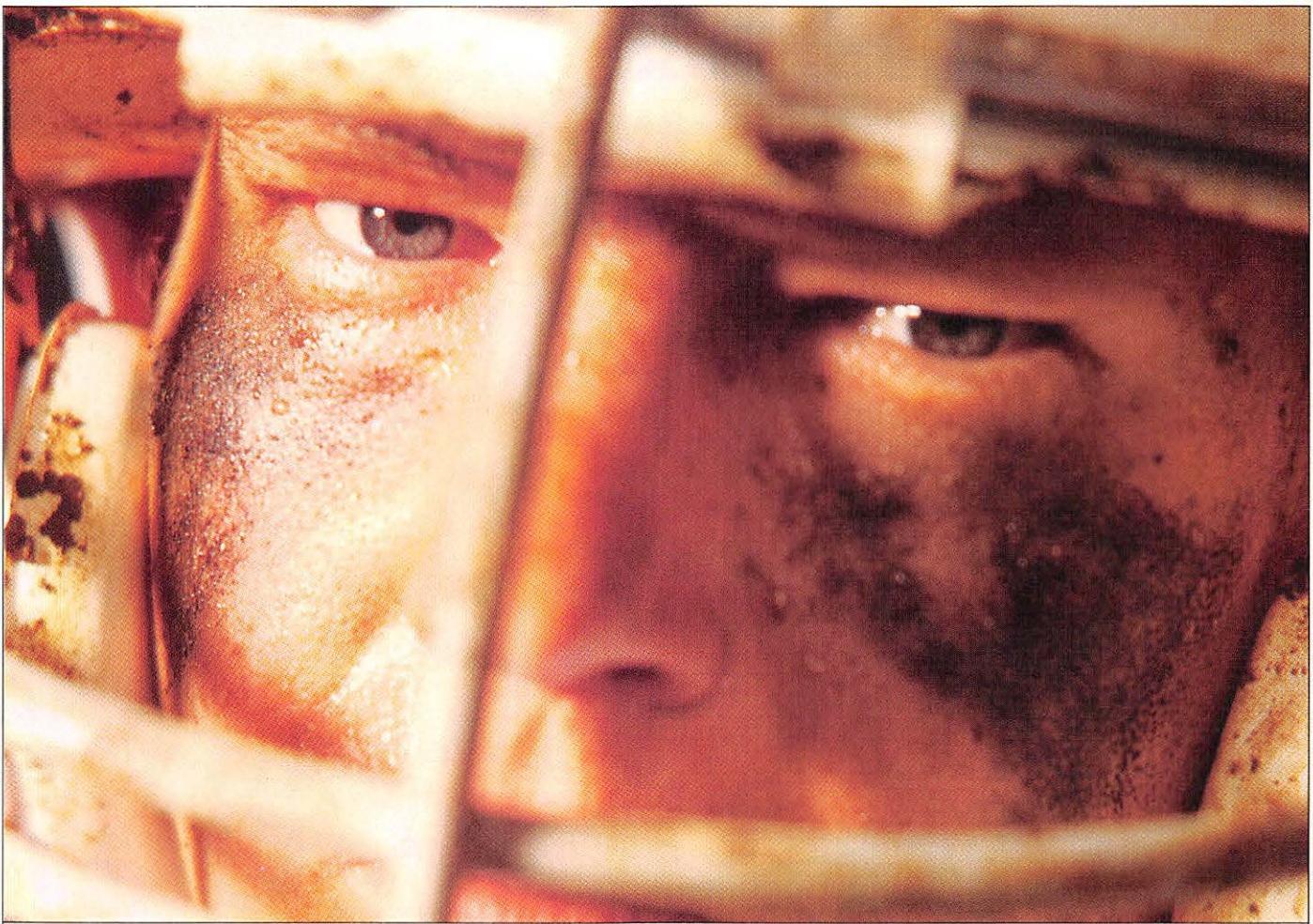
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Big Red Boulevard

Located beneath the South Stadium, this walkway is the path which leads the Huskers from the locker room to Memorial Stadium. We invite you to have a name engraved in one of the boulevard's bricks. With your help we can continue the proud tradition of Nebraska football.

1995 Team Photos

A color team picture with a printed heading stating the year and the record of each team, is also available for each championship team. Pictures were taken prior to the start of the season in full uniform. Cost of both the football team photo and volleyball team photo is \$10 each.

Autographed Volleyball and Football

Authentic autographed balls contain signatures of the 1995 national championship volleyball team (\$50) and the 1995 national championship football team (\$100). Both balls are pre-printed with autographs of every team member and contain the official University championship logo.



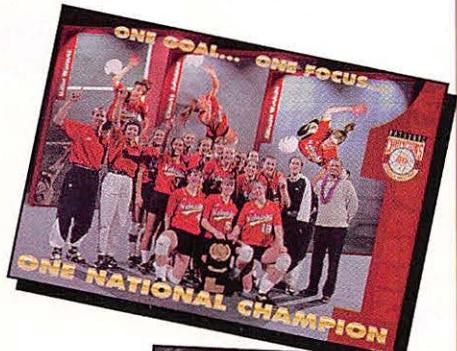
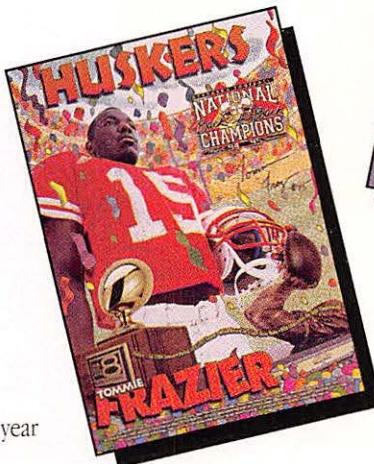
HuskerVision Videos

Videos highlighting the Nebraska volleyball and football national championship seasons, as well as the bowl trip again are available as produced by HuskerVision. This is the only video that gets you into the locker room for pre and

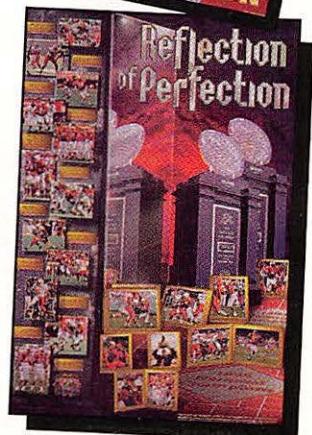


postgame speeches. Last year's season highlight tape and national championship videos for football are also available. All videos cost \$20 each.

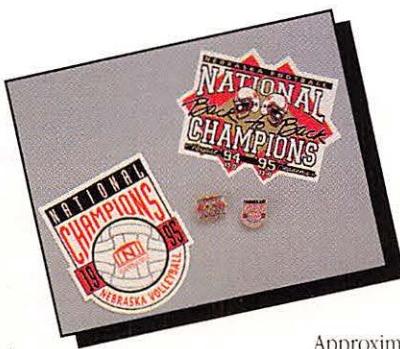
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National Championship & Tommie Frazier Posters:



National championship posters were produced commemorating both the football and volleyball championship seasons. The official championship poster produced by the Husker Athletic Department, is the only one featuring game action photos of the Husker stars. The 1995 national championship poster costs \$10 and one free 1994 national championship poster will be mailed at no charge with every poster order. You can also obtain an original Tommie Frazier poster commemorating the former outstanding Husker quarterback and 1995 senior. The Tommie Frazier and championship volleyball poster cost \$10 each.



Stickers & Pins

Car window stickers and stickers for notebooks and non-weathered materials are available for each championship team. The logo commemorating each championship season is also available as a collar/hat pin.

Approximate size of both stickers is 5" x 3 1/2", while the pins are approximately 1" x 1". Stickers are \$1 each, pins are \$5.

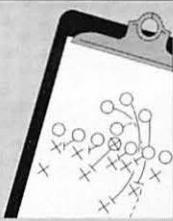
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Attendance: 75,158



SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM

KANSAS
NEBRASKA

1 2 3 4 Final

0 7 0 0 — 7
7 35 14 7 — 63

TEAM STATS

	KU	NU
First Downs	9	34
Rushing	2	20
Passing	7	12
Penalty	0	2
Rushing Attempts	30	63
Yards Gained Rushing	55	323
Yards Lost Rushing	34	1
Net yards rushing	21	322
Net yards passing	188	273
Passes attempted	27	18
Passes completed	14	13
Had intercepted	2	0
Total plays	57	81
Total net yards	209	595
Avg. gain per play	3.7	7.3
Fumbles-lost	3-1	2-1
Penalties-yards	6-34	2-15
Punts-yards	9-359	2-96
Avg. per punt	39.9	48.0
Possession time	25:43	34:17

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

	NEBRASKA
Player	Solo Asst TT Sacks Int.
Wistrom	2 5 7 1 0
Hesse	5 1 6 0 0
Peter	1 3 4 1 0
Toline	2 2 4 0 0
Kelsay	0 3 3 0 0
Saltsman	0 3 3 0 0
Warren	0 3 3 0 0
William, J.	1 2 3 0 0
Foreman	0 3 3 0 0
Jackson, J.	0 3 3 0 0
Stokes	1 2 3 0 0
Tomich	1 1 2 1 0
Ogard	0 2 2 0 0
Farley	1 1 2 0 0
Brown, M.	1 0 1 0 1

	KANSAS
Player	Solo Asst TT Sacks Int.
Bratten	7 6 13 0 0
Ward	3 8 11 0 0
Blevins	1 10 11 0 0
McGraw	4 5 9 0 0
Fotenot	5 4 9 0 0
Gaddie	4 3 7 0 0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING

NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Green	12	65	5.4	11	1
Benning	9	54	6.0	14	1
Makovicka	5	49	9.8	23	0
Evans	12	42	3.5	10	1
Sims	5	40	8.0	9	0
Frost	6	35	5.8	10	2
Cobb	3	6	3.0	6	0

KANSAS

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Vann	10	22	2.2	7	0
Sanders	5	8	1.6	3	0
Bruce	3	6	2.0	4	0

PASSING

NEBRASKA

Player	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD
Frost	12-16-0	254	3
Turman	1-2-0	19	0

KANSAS

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Rutz	9-18-2	94	0
Johner	5-9-0	94	1

FIELD GOALS

NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Made	Distance
None attempted			

KANSAS

Player	Att	Made	Distance
None attempted			

RECEIVING

NEBRASKA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Holbein	3	69	23.0	34	2
Jackson, V.	2	65	32.5	41	0
Wiggins	2	30	15.0	18	0
Cheatam	1	34	34.0	34	0
Lake	1	31	31.0	31	0
Wills	1	19	19.0	19	0
Green	1	13	13.0	13	0
Jackson, S.	1	8	8.0	8	1

KANSAS

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Byrd	4	111	27.8	77	1
Vann	3	35	11.6	20	0

PUNT RETURNS

NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Wiggins	3	42	14.0	29	0
McFarlin	2	4	2.0	4	0

KANSAS

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Byrd	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Vann	2	49	24.5	28	0

1996 SEASON STATS

(7 GAMES)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	6	102	528	88.0	4
Evans, D.	6	58	413	68.8	6
Benning, D.	6	62	367	61.2	6
Frost, S.	7	73	289	41.3	6
Sims, J.	5	26	153	30.6	1
Shuster, B.	6	24	113	18.8	1
Turman, M.	5	11	76	15.2	1
Makovicka, J.	5	14	97	19.4	0
Cobb, J.	4	11	42	10.5	0
Perino, J.	3	1	28	9.3	0
Eicher, C.	2	2	18	9.0	0
Kingston, B.	4	9	10	2.5	0
Legate, B.	2	3	8	4.0	0
Cheatham, K.	3	1	-16	-5.3	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frost, S.	7	56-109-2	51.4	849	7
Turman, M.	6	7-15-0	46.7	110	1
Perino, J.	2	0-1-0	0.0	0	0

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Holbein, B.	7	13	220	16.6	31.4	3
Vedral, J.	7	10	185	18.5	26.4	0
Green, A.	6	8	88	11.0	14.6	0
Jackson, V.	6	5	99	19.8	16.5	2
Cheatam, K.3	4	4	83	20.8	27.7	1
Jackson, S.4	4	4	48	12.0	12.0	2
Shuster, B.	6	3	74	24.6	12.3	0
Evans, D.	6	3	12	4.0	2.0	0
Brown, L.	3	2	44	22.0	14.6	0
Lake, J.	3	2	43	21.5	14.3	0
Edwards, J.R.3	1	10	10	10.0	5.0	0
Legate, B.	2	1	9	9.0	4.5	0
Wieting, S.	2	1	6	6.0	3.0	0
Makovicka, J.5	1	5	5	3.0	0.6	0
Benning, D.6	1	1	-1	-1.0	-0.2	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	7	12	8	50

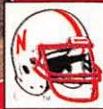
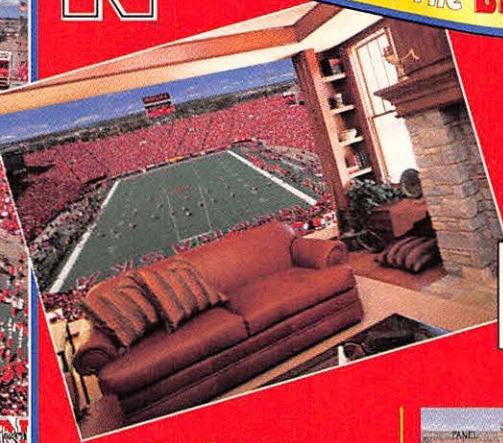
DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Williams, J.	7	23	36	59	1	4
Hesse, J.	7	23	35	57	0	2
Wistrom, G.	7	17	21	38	1	7.5
Foreman, J.	7	8	22	30	0	0.5
Peter, J.	7	8	22	30	0	3
Farley, T.	5	10	17	27	0	1
Minter, M.	7	6	19	25	3	0
Stokes, E.	7	12	12	24	0	0
Tomich, J.	7	6	15	21	0	2
Kelsay, C.	7	8	12	20	1	3.5
Booker, M.	7	6	13	19	1	0
Warfield, E.	7	6	11	17	1	0
Ogard, J.	6	7	10	17	0	1
Rucker, M.	6	7	9	13	0	0
McFarlin, O.	6	2	11	13	0	0
Terwilliger, R.	6	7	4	11	2	0
Brown, R.	6	5	6	11	0	1
Shaw, B.	6	5	4	10	0	1
Fullman, M.	7	2	8	10	0	1
Wiltz, J.	7	2	8	10	0	1
Saltsman, S.	6	0	8	8	0	0
List, G.	5	6	2	8	1	0
Toline, T.	4	3	5	8	0	0
Jackson, J.	3	1	6	7	0	0.5
Brown, M.	6	5	4	6		

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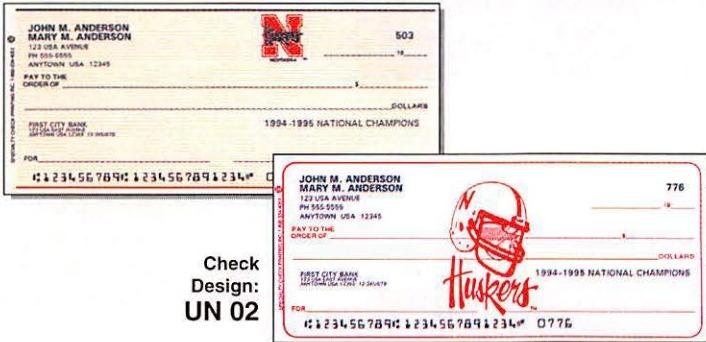
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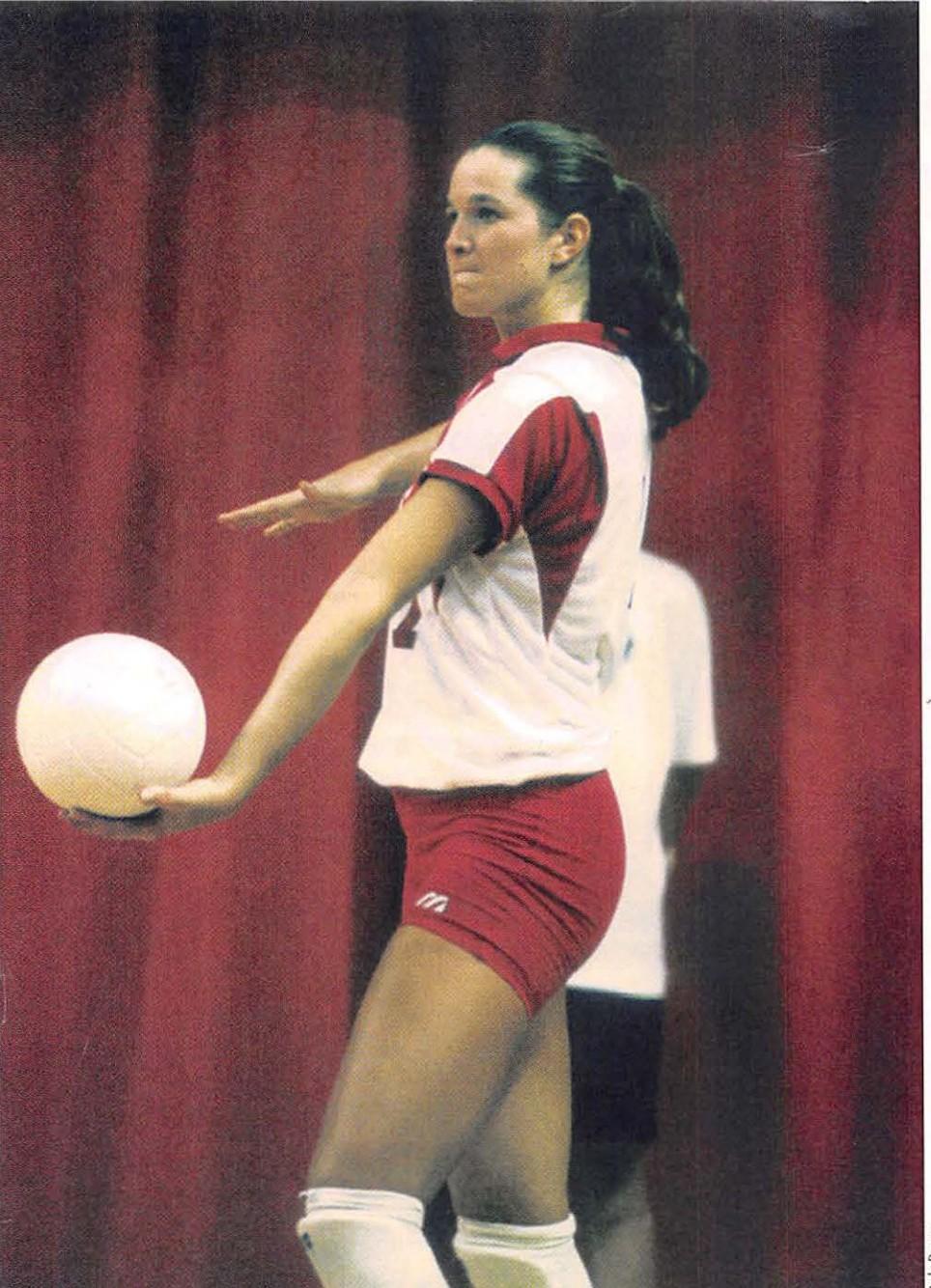
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Bob Berry

Calm Before The Storm

• By Mike Friend

The calm demeanor of Kate Crnich is apparent every time she unfolds her resume.

She is a human development major, and her career goals include volunteer work — in particular, working with the elderly. She idolizes Mother Teresa.

"I see my career working with the elderly," Crnich said. "I know it sounds made-up, just to sound good, the fact that I want to work with elderly people. But I really do enjoy it."

"I've done it before, and I feel very comfortable doing it."

But then, she will walk onto the volleyball court and her gentle personality takes a turn. And that turn has made Crnich one of the most dangerous outside hitters at the intercollegiate level.

"When you're playing volleyball, you can't be mild," Crnich said. "You can't be passive. You have to be aggressive. I've been trying to talk more out there and have more of a voice because I know we need it. I was trying to do what I did last year, and I realize it's not going to work."

"My roommate, Maria (Hedbeck), and I have been pushing people because we know we need that. Some of the people have to be pushed because if they're not pushed, they won't play their best. Last year, we had great leaders, and now I think Maria and I know what we have to do."

The Huskers, who were rated third by *Volleyball* magazine and sixth in the *USA Today* coaches' poll in mid-October, have prospered, in part because of Crnich's experience and talent at outside hitter. Crnich and Hedbeck are three-year letter winners and the only seniors on the team.

Statistics show their maturity has paid off. The 5-foot-11 Crnich has been among the team leaders in kills-per-game ratio and service aces. Her performance has made Nebraska coach Terry Pettit take notice. "Kate has become a really nice volleyball player," Pettit said. "She just hangs in all the time."

**SIDE
OUT**

**Idolizing Mother Teres
a different deme**

Pettit, recently voted the 1996 Elite Volleyball Coach of the Year award, said that the Huskers not only need Crnich's leadership on the court, but they also need her numbers as well.

"Kate does a lot of things this year that she has never done before," said Pettit.

"She was never a strong server before. She's really taken on more responsibility and just matured as a person and a player. I'm very proud of the progress that she has made."

The progress was most evident last season in the national championship match against now-Big 12 rival Texas. The Illinois native blasted the Longhorns with a career-high 25 kills and 21 digs.

Crnich's stats aren't those of a shy, unassuming person. She used to become shaky when confronted by the huge home crowds at the NU Coliseum. But she has developed an inner peace on which she relies now when she steps onto the court. "Volleyball is such a communication sport. Nothing is individual because a team can't afford that," Crnich said. "When I'm around new people, I guess I'm pretty shy."

Opposing teams now know her, and it hasn't been a pleasant experience for them.

Last season, Crnich finished with 185 kills in 477 attacks. She has been on pace to double that this season. Through the middle of October, what Pettit described as the "dog days" of the season, she had 144 kills in 409 attack attempts, a solid .220 average. She was also leading the team in digs.

"When we sat down before playing the USA team, I leaned over to (assistant) Cathy Noth and said: 'You know, it's kind of interesting; many times last year, Kate was the sixth player on the court.' But going into the USA match, I had more confidence in her than anyone else on the court," Pettit said.

With the remainder of the Big 12 season and, more than likely, an NCAA Tournament appearance on the horizon, Crnich believes that the Huskers must toughen up.

"Last year, the focus was so good and the leadership was just great," she said. "But I think we still have a long way to go this year. We can improve a lot." ■

**a, Kate Crnich displays
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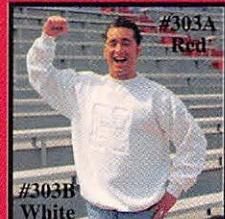


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KU REVIEW

From page 21

which further limited his playing time. He left the field before halftime to get treatment in hopes of being allowed to play a series or two in the second half. He got one play in the third quarter before he was pulled from the game by his position coach Tony Samuel.

"He didn't say not to (go in)," Tomich said. "He didn't say to (go in), either."

The execution problems that plagued Nebraska in the Texas Tech game were all but eliminated against Kansas. The Cornhuskers were penalized only twice, and they had only one turnover.

"I was struggling a little bit, trying to figure out whether we were solid on both sides of the ball or not," said Osborne. "I think tonight we were, and I felt good about our preparation. I thought all week long they practiced well. I thought the focus and concentration the last 24 hours was much better than at (Texas) Tech. We seemed to be more sure of what we wanted to do — be a great football team.

Nebraska is great by Mason's standards, or so it seemed to hear him talk.

"I think there is a misconception that Nebraska is not a very, very good team because they happened to lose to Arizona State, which happens to also be a very, very good team," Mason said. "Nebraska has as good of a defense as I've seen, and I've been in college football a pretty long time."

The Cornhuskers had established that fact. But there were still questions about the offense.

Frost, who passed for a career-high 264 yards against Oregon while he was at Stanford, rushed for 35 yards and two touchdowns on six carries. His 289 yards of total offense also were just short of making Nebraska's single-game Top 10 — and close to the record of 319, set by Jerry Tagge in 1971.

There was more doubt about his ability as a passer than a runner, however. One game isn't likely to eliminate all the doubt, according to Frost. "We're going to have to prove it wasn't a fluke," he said.

"We're not going to throw for 250 yards every night . . . some nights, maybe (it will be) more."

You might want to read that last part again. ■



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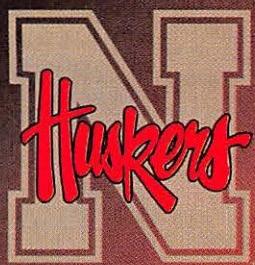
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FIALA

From page 7

10 to the 23rd power.)

When the defining moment arrived on Thanksgiving Day of 1971, I wondered if all the pre-game hype would be justified or if the game would fall flat on its figurative backside. Too often in sports, a game that is hyped beyond belief and recognition doesn't live up to all the pomp and circumstance.

But this game would not only measure up, it would transcend all of the written and spoken words preceding it and etch its images and outcome into all of the minds of those who saw and those who listened. Fans were transfixed by the ebb and flow of the game, the hammer and tong hitting, the emotion which lay spent on the field when the last second ticked away. Nebraska 35, Oklahoma 31.

Every Nebraska fan felt like they had played in "the game." And in the truest sense of tradition, the "Game of the Century" was and is still remembered and still handed down from generation to generation. Just watch a tape or listen to Lyell

Bremser's call and you will get the shivers, just like you did that day.

My playing days against Oklahoma were actually a mix of the ridiculous and the sublime. Since we're defining lots of things this time, ridiculous is . . . well . . . ridiculous. It's a form of ridicule, which means something that evokes contemptuous laughter. That about says it with respect to our 1968 Oklahoma game, a squeaker that the Sooners won 47-0 in Norman.

Growing up as a kid, one of my favorite cowboys was Roy Rogers. Remember Roy, Dale Evans, old Nellie Belle, Pat Brady and the Sons of the Pioneers singing "Happy Trails to You" at the end of the show? Well, after the 1968 OU game, I never wanted to see or hear of Roy Rogers again. Why? Blame OU. At the beginning of the fourth quarter of that game, the Oklahoma fans started singing (way off key I might add) "Happy Trails to You" . . . to us. Embarrassing wasn't even close to describing the feeling. Throw in the contemptuous laughter, however, and you'll have it. Ridiculous '68.

But now comes the sublime: the 1969 Oklahoma game. Sublime is defined as impressive and awe-

inspiring, which accurately describes our game against the Sooners, played again in Norman. Oklahoma scored first, and everyone said: "Here we go again." Everyone except the players. It quickly became a case of "pardon our dust." We left Oklahoma and the Sooner Nation reeling with a 44-14 victory. We wanted the shutout as a polite pay-back for the year before, but that didn't happen.

We did shut down eventual Heisman Trophy winner Steve Owens, holding him under 100 yards rushing for the first time in a couple of seasons. That 30-point victory stood for 26 years as the widest margin of victory over Oklahoma until last year's 37-0 victory in Lincoln. Sublime '69.

It has been a great run against Oklahoma and will, in some sense of the storied tradition of Nebraska vs. Oklahoma, continue. Sadly, however, the annual shootout will no longer take on the season-ending significance it once had. The passing of the Big Reds from generation to generation, as tradition requires, will take on new meaning. I hope the gatekeepers of that tradition will treat it well. ■

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Mississippi Prize

Meridian native seeks place in long line of standout Nebraska defensive tackles

With Nebraska putting so much pressure on opposing offenses from the outside, it's imperative that the Husker defense has some kind of anchor inside to make sure teams can't run up the middle.

The two defensive tackles for the Huskers must be big, strong, agile and determined to hold their ground in the middle, while the Husker rush ends on the outside seek and destroy.

Huge talents like Jason Peter, Jeff Ogard and Scott Saltsman currently man the middle defensive tackle positions for the Huskers. All range from 270 to 300 pounds, yet they run well enough to cover the line of scrimmage from sideline-to-sideline.

Kenny Smith (6-4, 290 pounds, 5.0 in the 40) of Meridian, Miss., a preseason All-American and top-100 player nationally, is the best in Mississippi.

The "Big Smurf" is a three-year starter who made 67 stops a year ago with six sacks and seven passes knocked down. He's playing better in 1996, with 45 solo stops, 10 sacks, one fumble recovery and two caused fumbles.

Smith has said he is looking for a great program in which he'll have an opportunity to play early. He said he thinks Florida is that kind of program, and the Gators have an early lead over Tennessee, Penn State, Notre Dame, Georgia Tech, Michigan and the Huskers.

"I like Nebraska's style of play and the way they are always staying aggressive moving up-field," Smith said. "Their style of play would be a big factor if I went there. I would love to play at Nebraska, if the opportunity is there."

Guenter Kryszon (6-4, 250, 4.9) of Clark (Johnson Regional), N.J., is lighting

up the East Coast. Kryszon plays at a higher speed than most linemen across from him and frequently finds himself in the opponents' backfield. A year ago Kryszon managed five sacks, and through five games this season he already has bettered that total. Kryszon has been consistent, listing Miami, Florida State, Nebraska, Maryland, Iowa, Georgia Tech and Notre Dame.

Gerard Warren (6-4, 280, 4.9) of Lake Butler (Union), Fla., seems to



By
**JAMES
HALE**



TACKLING THE HUSKERS' FUTURE

Many top prospects hope for a call from Lincoln, where they will have a chance to continue the legacy of great defensive tackles.

Name	Ht.	Wt.	40	Schools Considered
Kenny Smith	6-4	290	5.0	NEB, TEN, FLA, PSU, ND
Guenter Kryszon	6-4	250	4.9	NEB, MIA, FSU, MD, IOWA
Gerard Warren	6-4	280	4.9	NEB, GA, FLA, FSU, TENN, ND
Sam Matthews	6-5	260	4.9	NEB, GT, ALA, FLA, TENN
Kenneth Jackson	6-3	280	4.9	NEB, others
Josh Weldon	6-4	264	4.9	NEB, AUB, FSU, FLA, TENN, ALA
Anthony Herron	6-4	250	4.85	NEB, MICH, ILL, IOWA
Robert Bernard Huge	6-3	255	4.8	NEB, A&M, TEX, FSU, FLA
Sean Rogers	6-5	270	5.0	NEB, COLO, TEX, K-ST, OU

throw blockers from side-to-side or sometimes, for the fun of it, he runs around them to show off his excellent quickness in the trenches. Warren managed 82 solo stops as a junior, but has said he's not keeping up with stats this season, concentrating solely on each game as it comes.

Warren likely can go to any school in the country, but has said he has narrowed it down to Georgia, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Florida State, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee.

"Nebraska is one of the elite programs in the country, and I think if any player wants a great challenge he will take a look at Nebraska," Warren said. "I am pretty open concerning my recruiting right now, but Nebraska is certainly one of the main schools I want to look at."

The Huskers are also keeping in contact with **Sam Matthews** (6-5, 260, 4.9) of Jacksonville (Bolles), Fla. Matthews is considered one of the best in the country, but has said he feels Nebraska may be a tad too far preferring to stay in the South at either Georgia Tech, Alabama, Florida and Tennessee.

In Louisiana, **Kenneth Jackson** (6-3, 280, 4.9) of New Orleans (St. Augustine) has played both nose-guard and defensive tackle.

Rated as one of the top 20 players in Bayou country, Jackson is averaging seven tackles a game in 1996, and has posted two sacks. Jackson has said he refuses to narrow down his recruiting possibilities, but said Nebraska is certainly one of the schools that he keeps on his list.

"Nobody has a winning tradition like Nebraska in the 1990's," Jackson said. "They also play hard-nosed football, and I like their style of play."

Josh Weldon (6-4, 264, 4.9) of Cordele (Crisp County), Ga., made over 120 tackles last season with 63 solos as a junior. He's averaging eight stops per game in 1996 and reportedly is drawing attention from Nebraska, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Florida State, Notre Dame, South Carolina, North Carolina State and Tennessee.

"I really like the tradition of Nebraska and what they have been able to accomplish the past five years or so," Weldon said. "They have a great tradition of defensive line players. I really like Nebraska, but I am not sure what their status is with me. If they have a great interest in me, then I would like to take a closer look at their program."

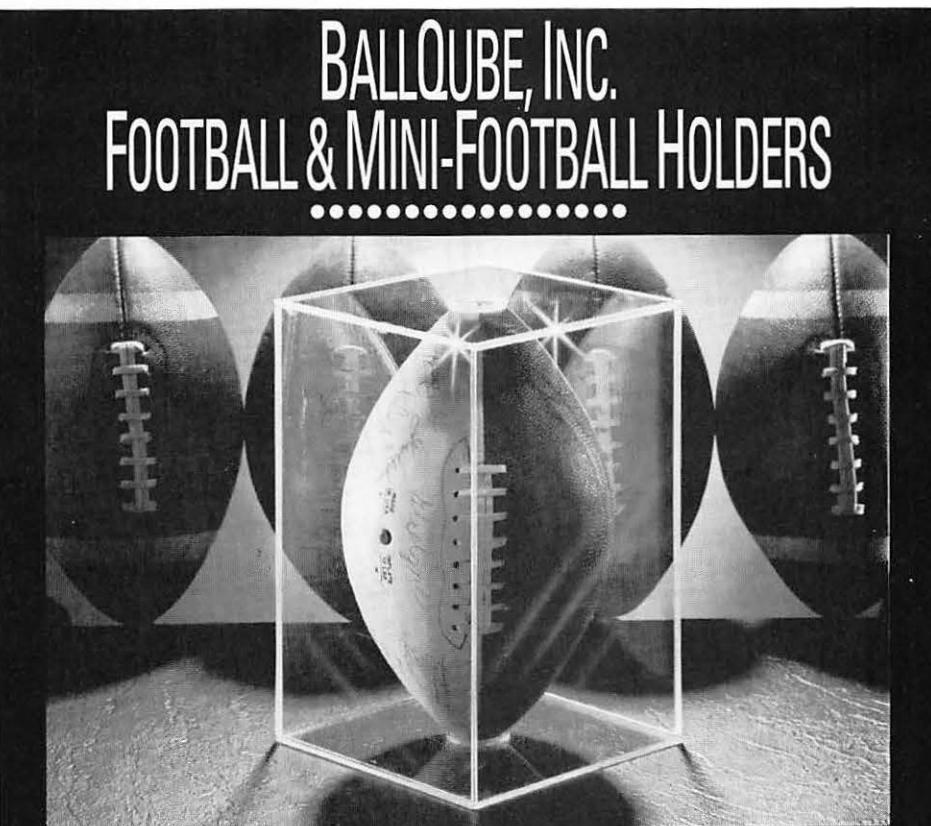
Anthony Herron (6-4, 250, 4.85) of Bolinbrook, Ill., is a dominant player in the Midwest who starts on offense and defense. Herron can bench 350, starts in basketball, and has managed to average a sack per game through seven games. Herron said he already has his recruiting choices down to four, with Nebraska, Illinois and Iowa chasing his childhood favorite — Michigan.

"I have followed Michigan all my life, but don't want to make a decision on something I liked as a kid," Herron said. "Things are different now, and even though I still like Michigan, I love the tradition and what Nebraska is accomplishing at the moment. Nebraska also has such a great tradition with their defensive

linemen, and there is no question that I would like to play for them."

In Texas, **Robert Bernard Huge**, (6-3, 255, 4.8) of Baytown (Sterling) is a dominating defender up front. Considered one of the top defensive tackle prospects in the country, Bernard made 89 tackles as a junior, with nine sacks. Nebraska always has been at the top of his list, with Texas A&M and Texas fighting right behind. Florida and Florida State trailing the pack.

Sean Rogers (6-5, 270, 5.0) of LaPorte, Texas is another to whom the Huskers continue to talk. Rogers totaled 78 tackles and five sacks as a junior and has said he will visit Colorado, Texas, Kansas State and Baylor, but is still looking at OU. ■



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THE JET

From page 10

tion was that we had to promise to leave and not gamble with the money.

We humbly thanked him and made our getaway. That was the only time, I think, that I had ever



University of Nebraska

Nebraska defeated OU twice during the years of Rodgers and Jerry Tagge (14).

beat Greg at running. I ran out of the casino so fast I thought I was going to have an asthma attack.

Greg and I had a lot of fun and are still friends today because we were never envious of each other's

success. Many of the players from Oklahoma and Nebraska were, and continue to be (as far as I know) friends.

Jerry Tagge and Sooner quarterback Jack Milden were friends, as were Rich Glover and Tom Brahaney, Oklahoma's All-American center. Daryl White, our All-American offensive tackle, became friends with Derland Moore, the Sooners' All-American defensive tackle.

During my three seasons at Nebraska, we defeated Oklahoma twice and went on to win two national championships.

The Sooners defeated us my senior year. Greg Pruitt was injured with three games left in the 1972 season and was denied a second consecutive 1,000-yard rushing total.

That was the year I won the Heisman Trophy. Greg finished second in the voting.

Because of these memories, it will be difficult to go through a football season without a Nebraska-Oklahoma game. Two seasons from now, in 1998, that will happen. ■

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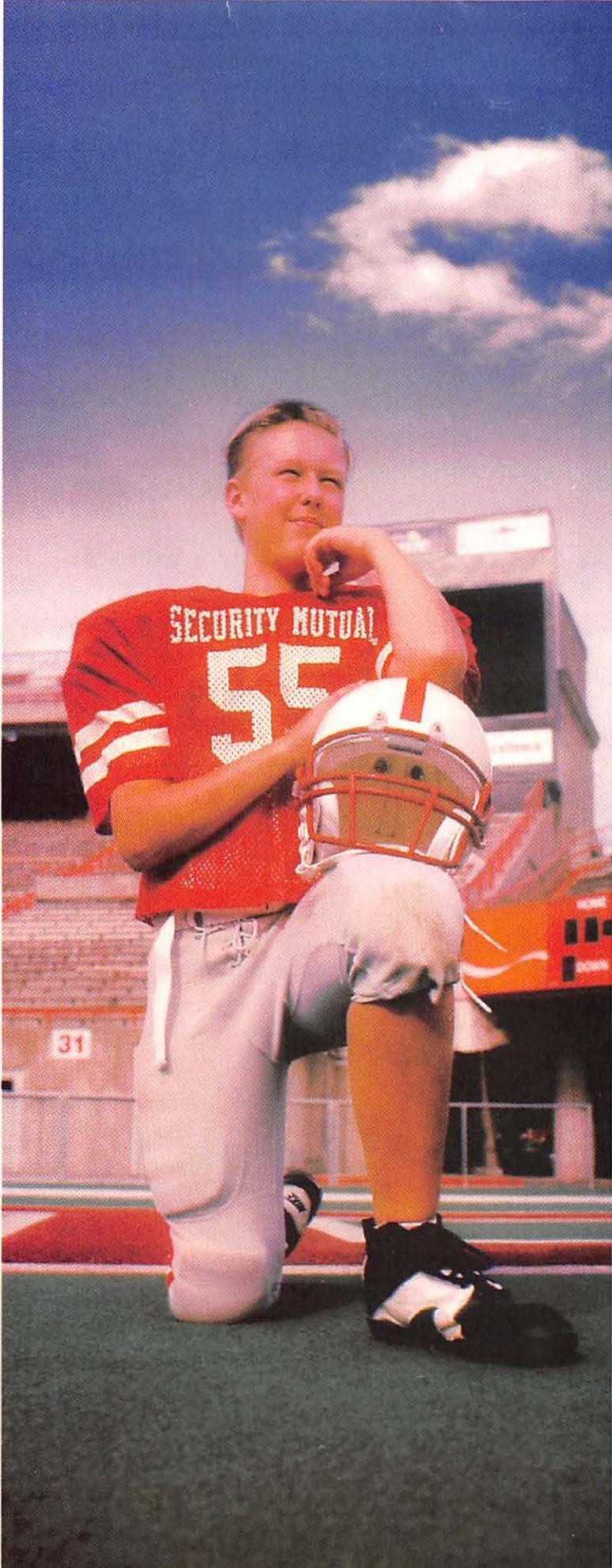
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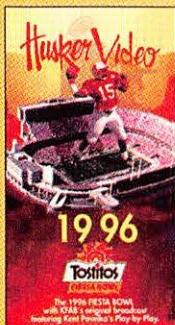
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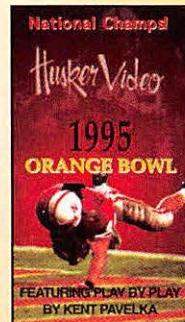
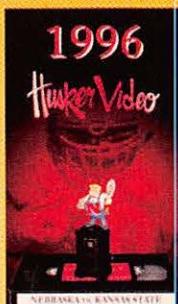
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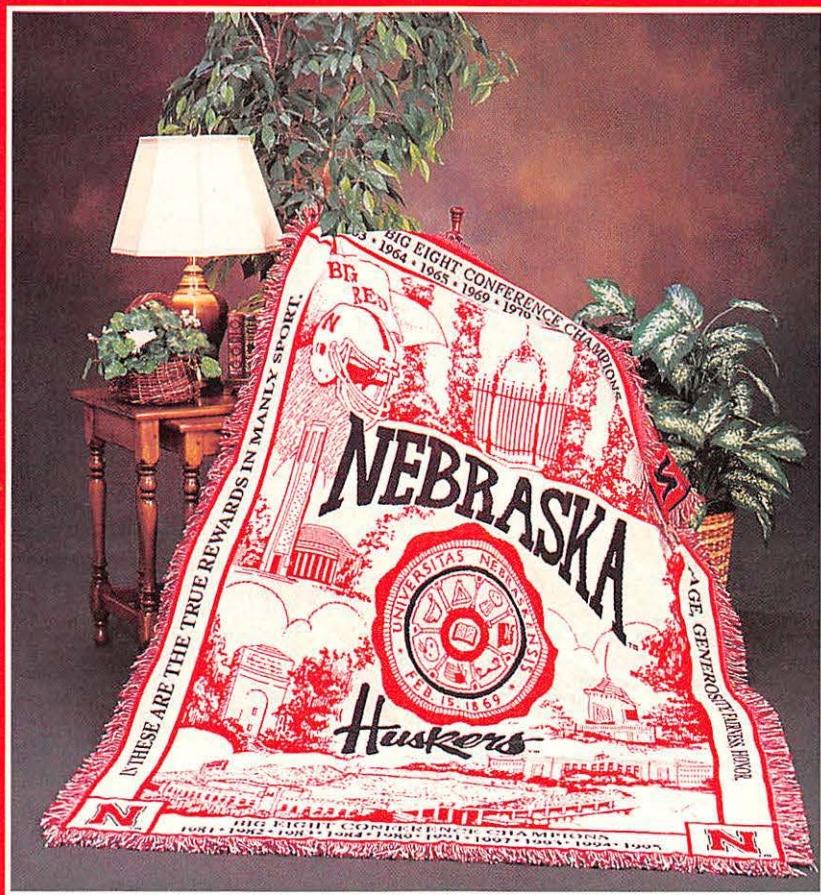
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FULLBACK

From page 13

they weren't signing any fullbacks," he said.

The Cornhuskers hadn't recruited any scholarship fullbacks the previous year, either. In fact, Nebraska's scholarship recruits since 1991 have included only four players designated as fullbacks.

Tim Carpenter and Vershan Jackson, both of whom have been moved to tight end, came in as fullbacks in 1993. Dan Alexander and Willie Miller arrived this fall and are redshirting.

Players regularly switch positions, sometimes more than once, after they get to Nebraska. The position at which a player is listed when letter-of-intent signees are announced in February often has little correlation to where he ends up. That's why many are listed as either offense or defense.

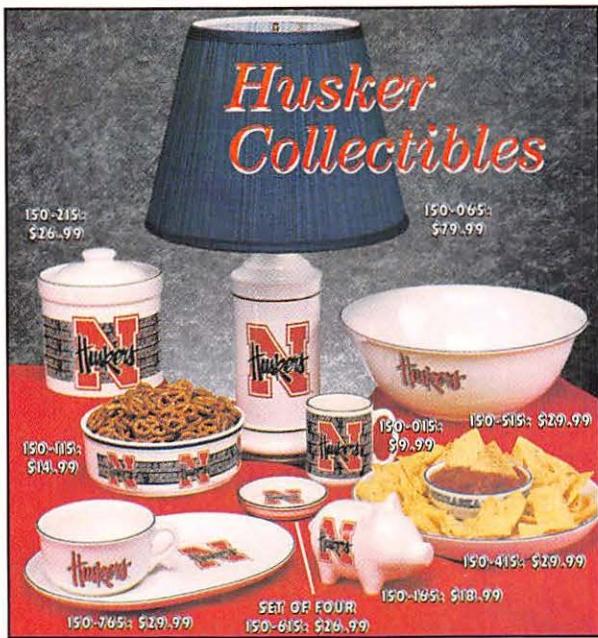
Even so, there is a pattern in the Cornhuskers' recruiting. Since 1981, when Tom Rathman was a scholarship recruit from Grand Island (listed as an offensive back or linebacker), Nebraska has had nine recruiting classes without any scholarship players identified as potential fullbacks.

In 1982, Dan Casterline was a fullback-defensive back who ended up at strong safety. In 1983, Micah Heibel came as a "linebacker" and was subsequently moved to fullback. There were no scholarship fullbacks in 1984 and 1985, though the generic "running back" designation applied to Tyreese Knox in 1984 and Bryan Carpenter in 1985. Knox played some fullback, and Carpenter ended up at the position.

No scholarship recruits were listed as fullbacks in 1986, 1987, 1991, 1992, 1994 and 1995. Lewis and McDuffy were in the 1988 class, and Omar Soto transferred from Arizona Western Junior College in 1989 — Trev Alberts was listed as a fullback or linebacker in that recruiting class. Schlesinger and Vincent Hawkins, a transfer from Spokane Falls Community College, were fullback recruits in 1990.

Hawkins was switched to wing-back and ended up also playing some at tight end.

The fullback position has belonged to walk-ons since the rugged Schlesinger departed for the NFL's Detroit Lions after finishing his career by scoring the two fourth-



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quarter touchdowns against Miami in the Orange Bowl to give coach Tom Osborne his first national championship in 1994.

Jeff Makovicka, who walked on from East Butler High School, was Schlesinger's back-up that season, after switching positions — he had been an I-back. Schuster was third on the depth chart.

Last season, Schuster was second to Makovicka, with Makovicka's brother Joel, a redshirted freshman, at No. 3. Now, Schuster is the starter, followed by Joel Makovicka and sophomore Billy Legate, a walk-on from Clearwater High. Sophomore Josh Cobb and redshirted freshman Ben Kingston are behind Legate. They also are walk-ons from Nebraska. Cobb is from Wallace. Kingston is from Omaha.

"I'm not certain what reason there is for that," Frank Solich said of the preponderance of walk-ons at fullback. The assistant head coach and running backs coach was a Cornhusker fullback himself. In fact, he was first-team All-Big Eight at the position as a senior in 1965. Nebraska has had only four other first-team all-conference fullbacks since 1960: Bill Thornton (1961), Dick Davis (1967), Andra Franklin (1980) and Rathman (1985), who established a standard by which they are now measured.

Fullback "takes a guy with a good work ethic, a team-oriented guy," said Solich, who was more like an I-back when he played. "But why walk-ons have been so successful there, I really don't know."

Schuster, who was a running back in high school, has a theory. "It's a position a lot of kids from Nebraska will play," he said. "They're running backs at small high schools, usually the biggest kids on their team. Fullback fits a certain body type that those Nebraska kids fall into."

Walk-ons aren't likely to find much opportunity at I-back, a position typically filled by high school All-Americans. Jay Sims is talented, but fourth on the depth chart. "A lot of guys I came in with were going to play running back, but they never did," said Schuster. "No way could I be a running back."

"It's tough to play wingback. They (walk-ons) know they're not going to play strong safety, and they're not going to be cornerbacks. I couldn't see myself playing anywhere on defense."

What he could see, however, was "a little bit of light at fullback."

That light might have been nothing more than what he saw the first time the 230-pound Schlesinger blocked him during a drill in practice. "He almost took my helmet off," Schuster said.

Whatever the source, Schuster moved toward the light, eventually getting an opportunity to play in his third season. He made the most of 13 carries (in 12 games), gaining 98 yards.

A key in his development came during spring practice of his second year. His attitude changed, as did his academic major. He switched to education, with the intention of becoming a coach.

"I thought if I was going to go into coaching, this was a good place to do it. I needed to pay attention, instead of sleeping through meetings like some guys do. From that point on, I really started learning the offense, and I made sure the coaches knew," Schuster said. "I might not always get the guy blocked, but I

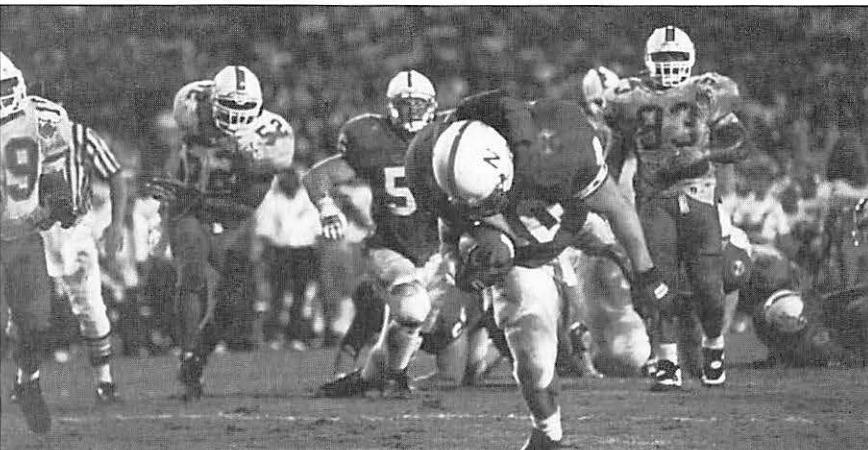
what they are supposed to do.

"There's got to be more than talent at the position," said Solich. "If a guy has tremendous athletic ability but he can't read on the run, get where he needs to be, that's not going to be enough."

That might help to explain why so many walk-ons have succeeded as fullbacks. "It's got a little bit to do with work ethic," Schuster said. "Walk-ons have something to prove, to themselves and others."

Playing fullback requires a unique commitment, as well as an acceptance of anonymity. The trap plays Schlesinger broke for touchdowns in the 1995 Orange Bowl game, and with which he earned a special place in Cornhusker history, were a "fullback's dream," according to Joel Makovicka.

Schuster's experience at Nebraska has been both unique and typical. He has struggled with self-doubt. But he has never lost sight of his goal. "I've got two national champi-



Playing mostly in anonymity, NU fullbacks live for plays such as the trap which sprung Cory Schlesinger for two touchdowns in the 1995 Orange Bowl.

was going to make sure I went to the right place and tried to block the right guy."

Schuster succeeded in that. He has one of the best football minds on the team, according to Solich, who has compared him favorably to Rathman in that and other aspects of his play.

"Brian is tremendous at that. He's as good as anybody we've had, getting where he's supposed to be," Solich said at mid-season. "Brian is playing very well right now."

Schuster can diagram not only where the fullback is supposed to go on a particular play but also where everyone else on offense, including the linemen, is supposed to go, and

onship rings," he said.

He also received a scholarship last spring. "A lot of times, you wonder though. It's brutal. I've considered it survival of the fittest. If you're still standing at the end, you might have a chance."

Schuster has accomplished just about everything he intended to accomplish when he arrived at Nebraska in the fall of 1992, with freshman enthusiasm and good advice.

He didn't make the travel roster for Pasadena, of course. "I've always wanted to see the Rose Bowl. Still do," Schuster said of the venerable stadium. "I'd like to play Ohio State there."

He paused, then added: "But that isn't going to happen."

He has learned, like all walk-ons, to distinguish between what is possible and what isn't. ■

BEST OF THE BEST

the numbers game

Jerseys 61-70

Editor's Note: This is the eighth of an 11-part series featuring our picks as the best players ever to wear each jersey number in the modern era.

Next week we'll break down numbers 71 through 80.

It was a crisis . . . for Bob Brown, anyway. The Friday before Nebraska's opener against South Dakota in 1962, Brown's No. 61 jersey was missing. The Cornhuskers had new jerseys for Bob Devaney's first game as coach, bright red with script numerals. And No. 61 was nowhere to be found.

"It was here," equipment manager Floyd Bottorff told Don Bryant. Nebraska's associate athletic director for public relations was sports editor of the *Lincoln Star* at the time.

I checked it on the rack, and he (Brown) used it on Photo Day," Bottorff continued. "You know, this is the first time since I've been here that a jersey has been lost before the season. I've had a couple of boys cop 'em after the last game, but never has one disappeared before the season."

Bottorff checked every jersey on the rack in the north field house. He sorted through the dirty laundry, to make sure it hadn't been tossed there by mistake. He checked lockers. He interrogated other players and even passers-by, but to no avail. Barely 24 hours before kickoff, there was no No. 61.

Brown, a 6-foot-5, 259-pound junior guard and linebacker from

Cleveland, Ohio, was visibly shaken, according to Bryant, who reported that he was "the most disturbed" of several people.

If nothing else, Brown's size presented something of a problem. He was the biggest player on the team, according to the preseason roster. Don Stevenson, a transfer from Palo Verde Junior College in Blythe, Calif., nicknamed "Big Don," was 6-foot-3 and 251 pounds. And Jim Baffico, a transfer from San Francisco City College, was listed at 6-foot-1, 240 (though he was closer to 270).

Players wore numbers according to the positions they played, and offensive guards (Brown played linebacker on defense) needed numbers in the 60's, further complicating the situation.

After much deliberation, Bottorff concluded that the problem could be solved by re-assigning jersey No. 64 to Brown. Sophomore Gary Gray had worn No. 64 for Photo Day. And Ulysses Brown, Bob's older brother, had worn it the previous

John McCormick was NU's first three-year starter on the offensive line (1985-87) since Dave Rimington.

season, which would keep it in the family, so to speak.

The No. 61 jersey apparently was never recovered because it wasn't until the 1963 season, after Bottorff had an opportunity to order another one, that a No. 61 was included on the roster.

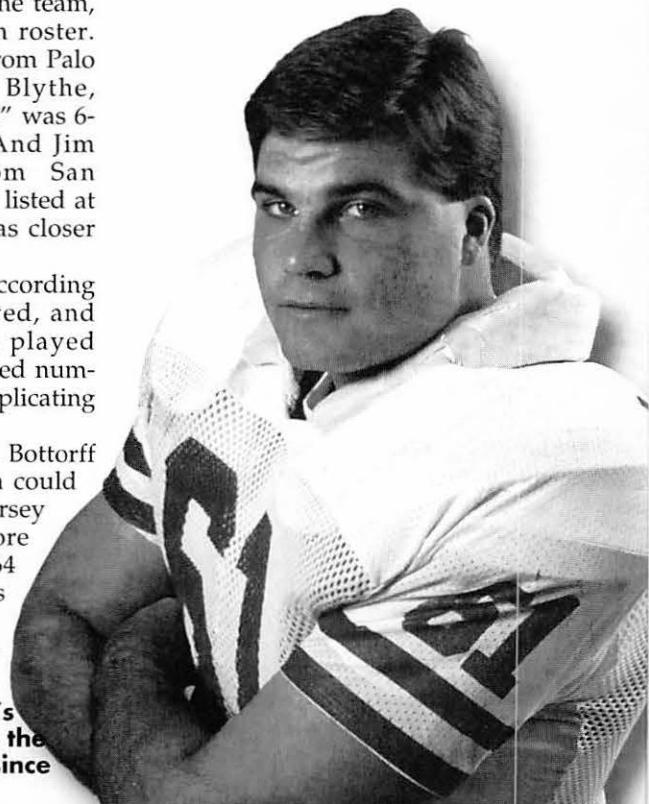
Brown, who weighed at least 280 by the time he was a senior, was a consensus All-American in 1963, as a guard and linebacker. He was selected in the first round of the NFL draft by the Philadelphia Eagles and became an All-Pro lineman, playing 10 seasons with the Eagles and the Oakland Raiders.

#61: John McCormick

Also: Clete Pillen

John McCormick earned All-America recognition in 1987 as a third-year starter at offensive guard. He was the Cornhuskers' first three-year starter on the offensive line since Dave Rimington (1980-82), helping Nebraska rank first, second and third, nationally, in rushing in his three seasons.

The 6-foot-2, 270-pound McCormick, who came from Gross High School in Omaha, was second-team all-conference as a junior. He was a Cornhusker co-captain in 1987. He followed his older brother,



**#61: John McCormick
(1985-87)**

Clete Pillen (1974-76)

**#62: Bob Sledge
(1986-88)**

**#63: Lynn Senkbeil
(1964-66)**

**#64: Bob Brown
(1961-63)**

**#65: Joe Armstrong
(1966-68)**

Randy Theiss (1980-82)

Top choice in white (years lettered at Nebraska)

Kevin, to Nebraska. Kevin McCormick was a walk-on, who also played offensive guard.

#62: Bob Sledge

Bob Sledge, like McCormick, came from Gross High in Omaha. He was a walk-on, transferring to Nebraska after spending a season at South Dakota. He was a first-team All-Big Eight offensive tackle in 1988, after earning second-team all-conference honors as a junior.

The Cornhuskers led the nation in rushing when the 6-foot-2, 270-pound Sledge was a senior, averaging 382.3 yards per game. They ranked third nationally in rushing when he was a junior.

#63: Lynn Senkbeil

Lynn Senkbeil became a starter at linebacker as a junior, playing for one of coach Bob Devaney's best teams. The 1965 Cornhuskers were 10-0 during the regular season, before losing an Orange Bowl showdown against national champion Alabama 39-28.

The 6-foot-2, 206-pound Senkbeil, whose nickname was "Butch," came from Salina, Kan. He was a first-team all-conference honoree in 1966, on a Big Eight championship team that went 9-1 in the regular season but lost a rematch against Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide, 34-7, in the Sugar Bowl game.

#64: Bob Brown

Brown was described in Nebraska's 1962 media guide as "average defensively." But he moved well despite his size and was a solid linebacker. He intercepted a George Mira pass late in the game to help preserve the Cornhuskers' 36-34 victory against Miami in the 1962 Gotham Bowl.

#65: Joe Armstrong

Also: Randy Theiss

Joe Armstrong was a 6-foot-1, 211-pound offensive guard from Beatrice, Neb.. He earned All-America recognition as a senior in 1968. He also was an academic all-conference selection.

Armstrong was Nebraska's punter as a sophomore, averaging 39.1 yards per punt. Instead of punting his junior and senior seasons, he handled the deep-snapping for the punt team.

Randy Theiss, another of the

Cornhuskers who have worn jersey No. 65, lettered as an offensive tackle from 1980 to 1982. He was an Academic All-American as a junior and a first-team All-Big Eight honoree as a senior. Andy Keeler, an all-conference offensive guard in 1988, also wore No. 65.

#66: Wayne Meylan

Also: Brenden Stai, Dan McMullen

Wayne Meylan gets the nod at this number, but Brenden Stai or Dan McMullen could just as easily be the first choice. All three earned All-America honors. It's just that the 6-foot-0, 239-pound Meylan was a consensus selection as a middle guard twice, in 1966 and 1967.

Meylan began his Cornhusker career as an offensive guard, the position Stai and McMullen played. But he switched to defense in the third game of his sophomore season and remained there. Meylan was second to All-American Walt Barnes in tackles in 1965, then became the key to the defense as a junior.

Meylan was chosen as the Big Eight Player of the Year in 1966, anchoring the conference's top-ranked defense. He was remarkably quick, blocking three punts and recovering two for touchdowns as a junior. He was involved in a team-high 119 tackles in 1967.

Stai was a four-year letterman and earned All-America honors at guard on the Cornhuskers' "Pipeline" in the 1994 national championship season. McMullen was an All-American guard in 1928. He played for teams, coached by Ernie Bearg, that had a combined record of 19-5-1 over three seasons.

Only four other numbers (12, 72, 75, 96) have been worn by three Cornhusker All-Americans.

#67: LaVerne Allers

LaVerne Allers, a high school fullback in Davenport, Iowa, was a consensus All-America offensive guard as a senior at Nebraska in 1966. The 6-foot-0, 215-pound Allers was a two-time, first-team all-conference selection, anchoring a line that opened the way to a nation-leading 290.7 rushing yards per game in 1965.

#68: Jake Young

Also: Bill Lewis

Jake Young was the first offensive lineman to earn a letter at Nebraska as a true freshman since freshman

eligibility was restored by the NCAA in 1972. He also was the third two-time All-American center during Tom Osborne's tenure as head coach.

The others were Rik Bonness and Dave Rimington. Young was the first true sophomore to start in the Cornhuskers' offensive line since Bonness, 14 years earlier. The 6-foot-4, 270-pound Young, who came from Midland, Texas, began his college career as an offensive guard but was moved to center during the spring of his freshman year.

#69: LaVerne Torczon

LaVerne Torczon was an All-Big Seven tackle on Coach Bill Glassford's final Nebraska team in 1955 and an All-Big Seven guard on Coach Pete Elliott's only Cornhusker team in 1956. The 6-foot-2, 210-pound Torczon came from tiny Platte Center, Neb. He lettered as a sophomore on a team that finished the regular season with a 6-4 record and second to Oklahoma in the Big Seven Conference.

Because of a conference rule that prohibited its champion from playing in consecutive bowl games, Nebraska was the Big Seven's representative in the 1955 Orange Bowl, losing to Duke 34-7.

#70: Charles Toogood

Also: Donnie McGhee,
Marvin Crenshaw

Charles Toogood earned four letters, playing for three head coaches at Nebraska. In Toogood's freshman year, in which he wore jersey No. 77, former Cornhusker Bernie Masterson was his coach. "Potsy" Clark was head coach in 1948, and Glassford arrived from Pittsburgh in 1949.

Toogood, a 6-foot, 220-pound tackle from North Platte, Neb., played both offense and defense. He was a first-team all-conference selection in 1949 and 1950, when he earned All-America recognition from *Look* magazine.

Donnie McGhee (1968-70), a first-team all-conference offensive guard on Nebraska's first national championship team in 1970, is among others who have worn jersey No. 70.

Marvin Crenshaw, an All-America offensive tackle as a Cornhusker senior in 1974, wore No. 70 until that final season, when he switched and wore jersey No. 73. ■

Signal For Success

Given the green light by Tom Osborne, Scott Frost relaxed and had his best game as a Husker

By MIKE BABCOCK

After Tom Osborne met with his quarterbacks on the Friday night before the Kansas game, he took Scott Frost, the starter, aside. The two talked briefly.

The brevity of their conversation belied its importance. Osborne encouraged Frost to stop worrying about making mistakes and concentrate on making plays. "He gave me the green light," said Frost, who accounted for five touchdowns and 289 yards in Nebraska's 63-7 victory against Kansas.

"It was the first time he just came out and said that."

Frost apparently didn't need any more encouragement.

"I thought Scott played very, very well tonight," Osborne said after the Cornhuskers set a school record by winning their 34th consecutive game at Memorial Stadium. "He threw the ball well, ran the ball well, ran the team well. There's no question if you looked at that game, he's got the skills to be an outstanding player. So we're very pleased with him, and really have been generally satisfied with him all year."

"But tonight, I thought he played his best game."

Frost's statistics were certainly his best in the seven games he's played. But beyond the numbers, he displayed a confidence that might have been shaken just a little following the previous week's game at Texas Tech. Even though Nebraska won 24-10, its offensive execution was poor. And when the offense doesn't execute, the quarterback is usually expected to shoulder the bulk of the blame.

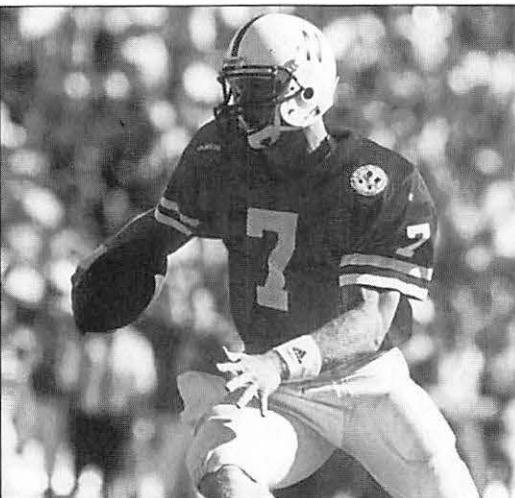
"I can't think it (the execution) will ever be that bad again," said Frost. The Kansas game, played on an unseasonably warm (71 degrees at kickoff) but windy night, was "a confidence-builder."

"I've been playing too tight. I let it hang out a little more tonight."

Osborne's words the previous night were the impetus. But those words had to be reinforced by his actions. If he had told Frost to relax and be confident in his ability and then had devised a conservative game plan, it might have seemed as if he didn't really have confidence in the junior quarterback.

Frost sensed Osborne's confidence in him by the way Nebraska attacked the Kansas defense.

"He definitely called plays that gave us a chance to make big plays," Frost said. Osborne's offensive game



Jon Waller

Playing with more confidence, Scott Frost accounted for five touchdowns (three passing and two rushing) against the Jayhawks.

plan was so well-constructed that he only felt the need to audible "about four times."

In addition, Osborne included play-action passes in the plan, despite a strong wind out of the southwest at kickoff. Prior to the game, Frost and Matt Turman, the No. 2 quarterback, speculated that because of the wind, the Cornhuskers probably wouldn't be throwing many passes. "Matt and I were joking that we threw 12 passes last week (at Texas Tech), so we'd probably throw only six this week," Frost said.

Instead, they threw 18 passes between them, 13 of which were complete for 273 yards. They might have thrown even more passes if the score hadn't gotten so lopsided, so quickly.

Nebraska led 42-7 at halftime and 56-7 at the end of three quarters.

"Coach Osborne takes some risks (offensively), not doing exactly what the defense is looking for. He kind of mixed it up. Our offense is keeping them (defenders) guessing," said Frost.

The 15 first-half passes is "unusual," he said. "I don't think that happens a lot. The fans probably like it, too. Everything seemed to click. The passing game definitely was in rhythm."

Frost's overall performance against Kansas was easily the most effective response to the seemingly ceaseless criticism he has received when the Cornhusker offense has sputtered this season.

After he rushed for 58 yards and a touchdown and passed for 74 yards and a touchdown in the opening-game victory against Michigan State, he was Nebraska's nominee for the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week award. After the shocking loss at Arizona State, he was . . . well, maligned.

"None of us were very happy about our preparation for Texas Tech," he said. "It was night and day (against Kansas). We were definitely ready to play tonight. It's a leadership thing. The captains are doing a good job. But some other people have to step up. We've got some young kids who need leadership."

"We don't feel that, by any means, we're out of it."

Presumably, he meant the national championship race. And Osborne agreed, with rare candor.

"I feel we've got a chance to make a run at it," he said.

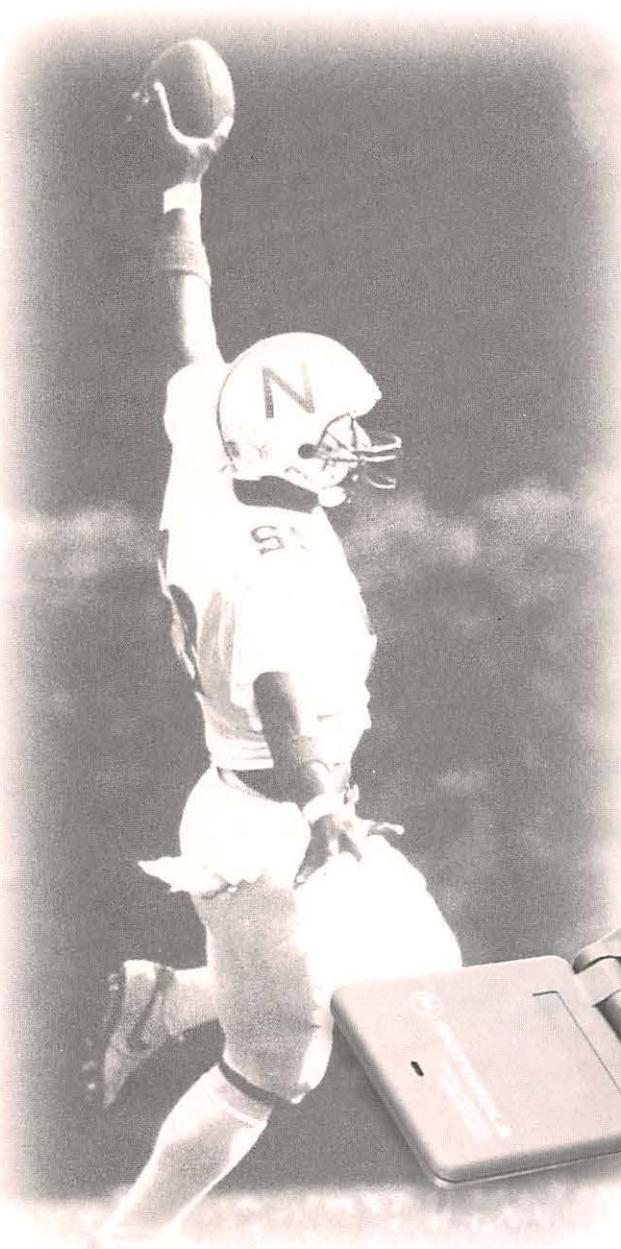
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